BLACK SUN SILVER MOON
1
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A Go! Comi manga

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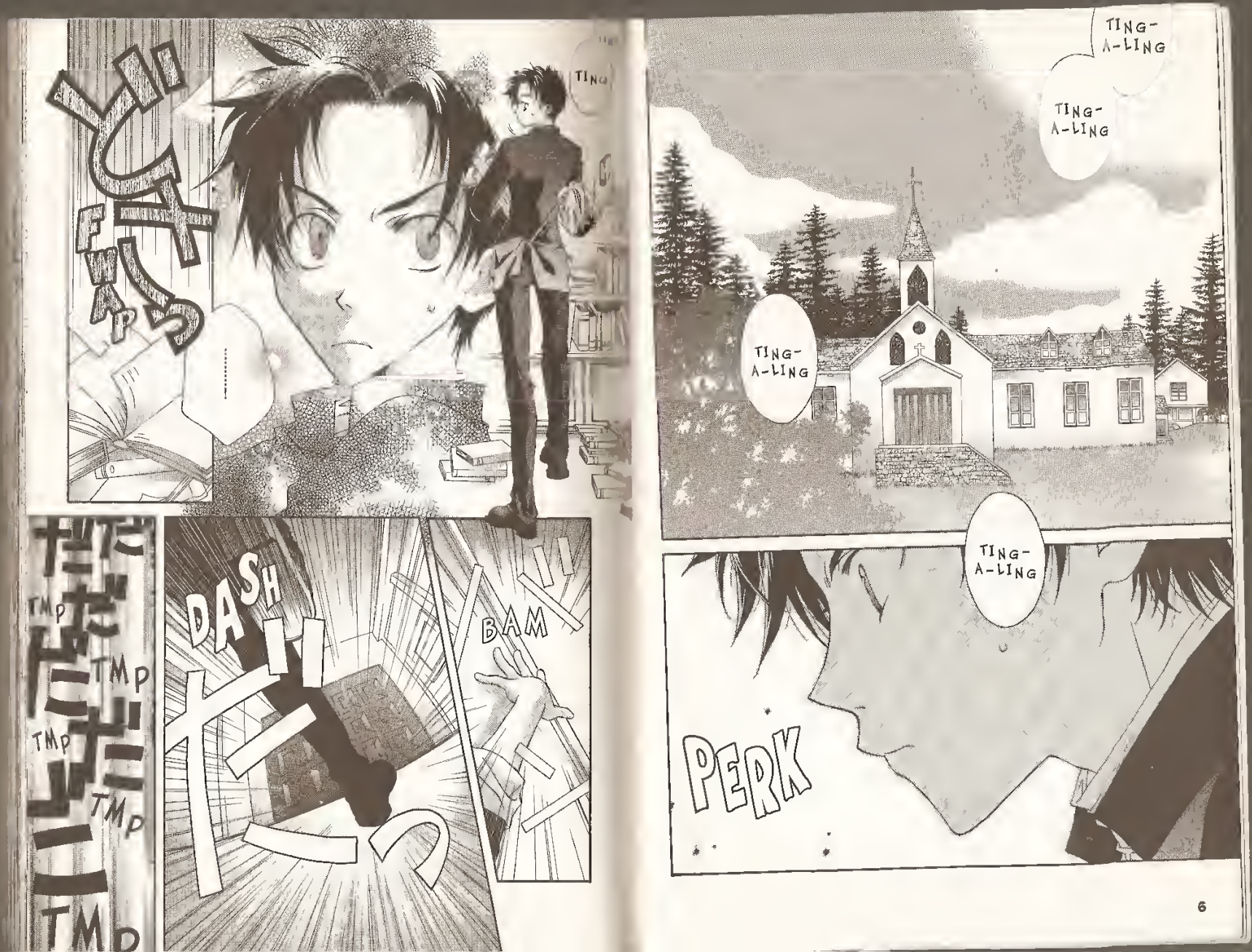
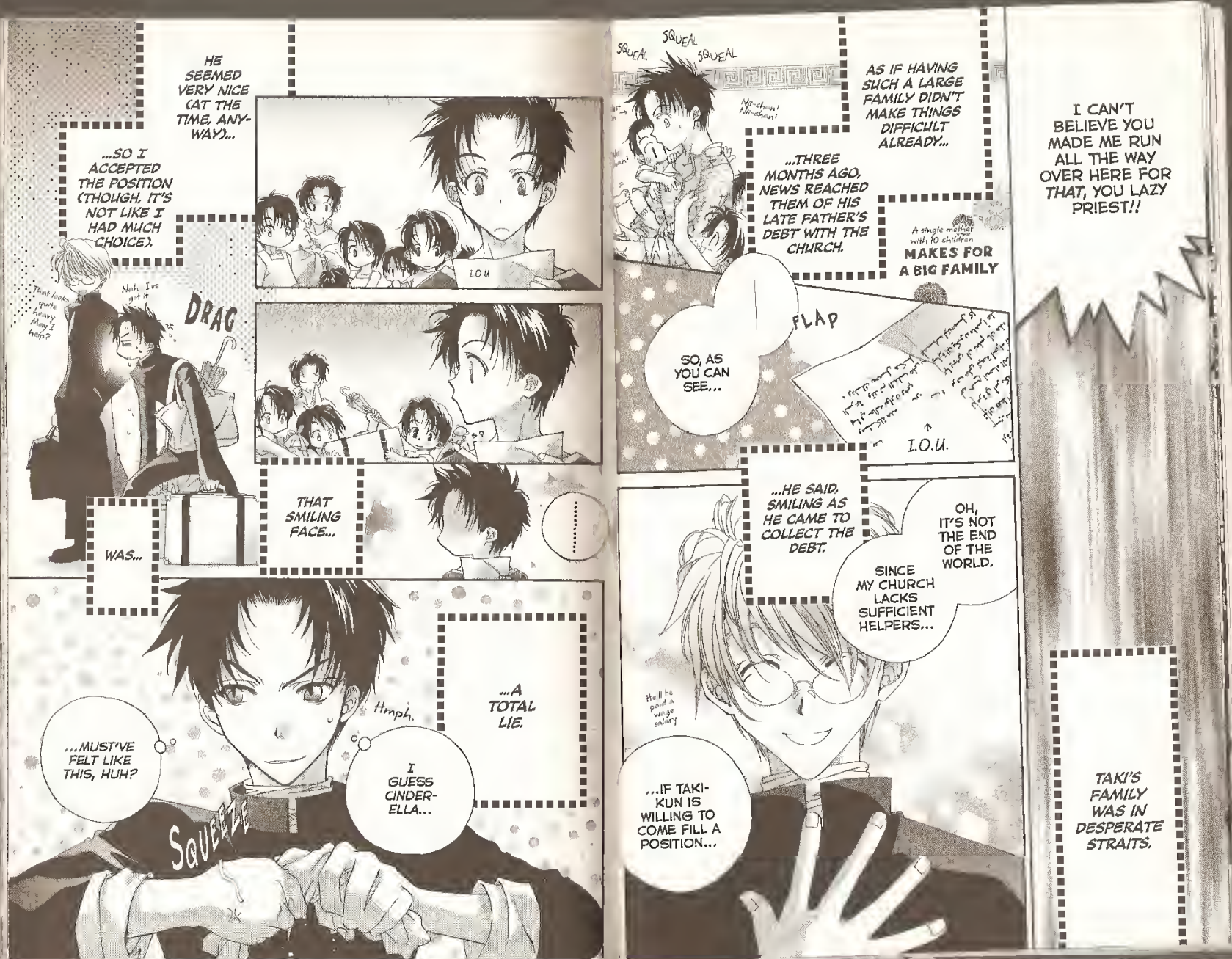

TING
FWAP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
DASH
BAM
TING-A-LING
TING-A-LING
TING-A-LING
TING-A-LING
PERK

S--
SORRY I'M LA–
BADUM
WHAT WAS SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU'RE TWO MINUTES LATE?
I WON'T EVEN BOTHER RINGING THE BELL IF YOU'RE GOING TO COME ON YOUR OWN TIME.
YOU'RE LATE.
AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GO BACK HOME.
RIGHT, TAKI?
SHIKIMI-SENSEI...*
YOU MAY THINK THIS DISRE-SPECTFUL, BUT...
DON'T EXPECT THE IMPOSSIBLE FROM ME! I RAN ALL THE WAY ACROSS THIS INSANELY HUGE CHURCH, OKAY!?
I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF CLEAN-ING YOUR ROOM!
Oh, you were still cleaning?
My, you're more than I thought.
IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS JUST HAVING TEA OR SOME-THING!
EEK, SCARY...
I DON'T MIND BEING YELLED AT, BUT I MUST SAY IT'S A RATHER SHOCK-ING ATTITUDE TOWARD SOME-ONE YOU OWE A FAVOR.
OR IS SUCH MANNERLESS BEHAVIOR COMMON WHERE YOU'RE FROM?
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU NEEDED, MASTER?
THERE NOW, THAT'S A GOOD BOY.
I RAN OUT OF TEA. WOULD YOU POUR ME SOME, PLEASE?
Heh heh
GRIT
IS THERE...
CLENCH

* Priests are normally referred to as "Sensei" or "Father Sensei"

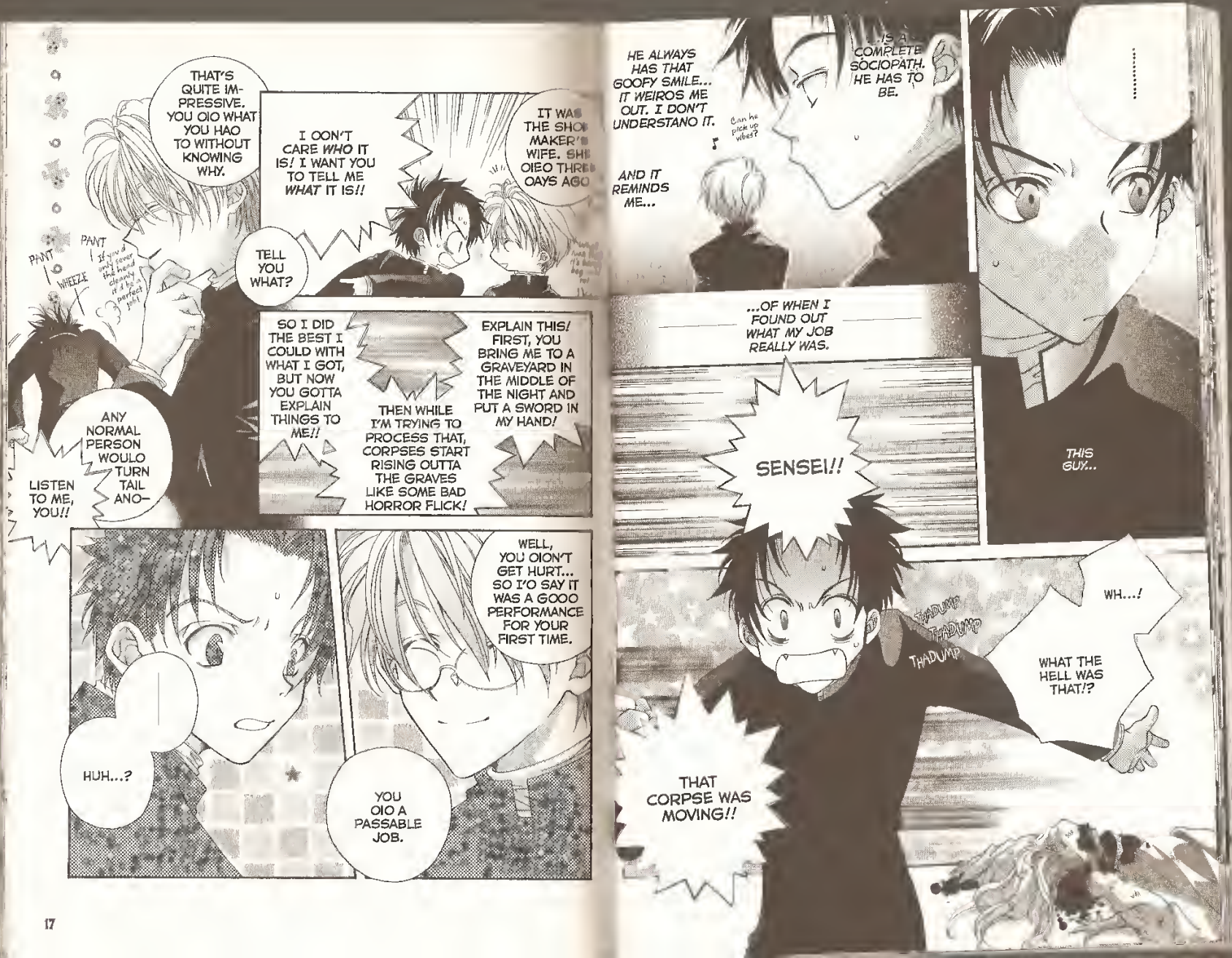

HE SEEMED VERY NICE (AT THE TIME, ANYWAY)...
...SO I ACCEPTED THE POSITION (THOUGH, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD MUCH CHOICE).
IOU
That looks quite heavy. May I help?
Nah, I've got it.
DRAG
THAT SMILING FACE...
WAS...
...MUST'VE FELT LIKE THIS, HUH?
Hmph.
I GUESS CINDER-ELLA...
...A TOTAL LIE.
SQUEEZE
SQUEAL
SQUEAL
SQUEAL
Nii-chan!
Nii-chan!
AS IF HAVING SUCH A LARGE FAMILY DIDN'T MAKE THINGS DIFFICULT ALREADY...
...THREE MONTHS AGO, NEWS REACHED THEM OF HIS LATE FATHER'S DEBT WITH THE CHURCH.
A single mother with 10 children
MAKES FOR A BIG FAMILY
SO, AS YOU CAN SEE...
FLAP
I.O.U.
...HE SAID, SMILING AS HE CAME TO COLLECT THE DEBT.
OH, IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD.
SINCE MY CHURCH LACKS SUFFICIENT HELPERS...
He'll be paid a wage salary
...IF TAKI-KUN IS WILLING TO COME FILL A POSITION...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE ME RUN ALL THE WAY OVER HERE FOR THAT, YOU LAZY PRIEST!!
TAKI'S FAMILY WAS IN DESPERATE STRAITS.

WE HAVE WORK TO DO TONIGHT.
Now then
...LET'S MAKE THIS THE END OF YOUR LITTLE JOKES, SHALL WE...
...TAKI?
UGH!
GET YOUR THINGS READY.
.....

JUST A LITTLE REBELLION...
I got some tea for ya!
MWA HA HA HA!
WRITING
Just a little
POOOOUR
Damp and dusty
.....
OUCH
OAMMIT... THAT JERK OF A PRIEST.
WHY OOES HE LIVE ALL THE WAY OUT HERE, ANY-WAY? HE SHOULO JUST MOVE INTO TOWN, OPEN A SMALLER CHURCH...
This place is friggin huge it makes cleaning hell.
SQUEAK

UH, NO THANKS, I GOTTA–
COME. DRINK. IT'S JUST TEA, CORRECT?
Oh, I know exactly what I'm in for you've been doing.
I've still got work...
GRAB
AAH!!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!!
Hee, hee
AH, THANK YOU.
THADUMP THADUMP
THADUMP THADUMP
YOU MUST BE TIRED AFTER ALL THAT. COME, HAVE A DRINK WITH ME.
HUH ...!?

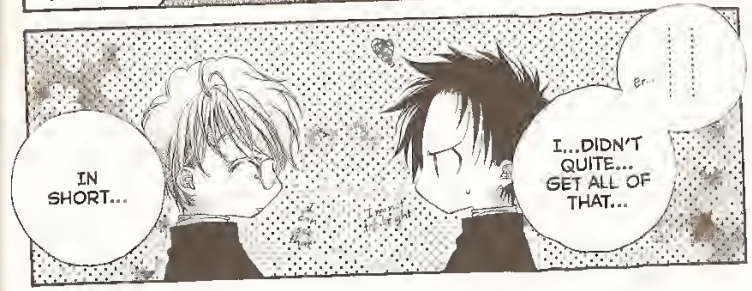
THIS IS AN EASY JOB THAT PAYS WELL. WHY COMPLAIN?
IS THAT A COMPLAINT?
GIMME A BREAK, OKAY!?
I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN!
You're the one just watchin'!
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS ANYWA-
KyAAH!!!
Ew it's rotten!!
THAT'S WHY I CHOSE YOU.
OR ARE YOU SCARED?
IRK
I'M NOT SCARED! IT'S JUST GROSSING ME OUT, OKAY!?
SMIRK
YOU AREN'T AFRAID.
AS I THOUGHT.
Booty!
SWOOSH
THUD
WELL, YOU MANAGED TO CUT THE HEAD OFF...
TO THINK YOU'D HAVE SO MUCH TROUBLE WITH ONE NEWLY RISEN...
...BUT YOU'RE STILL WASTING TOO MUCH ENERGY.
PANT
PANT

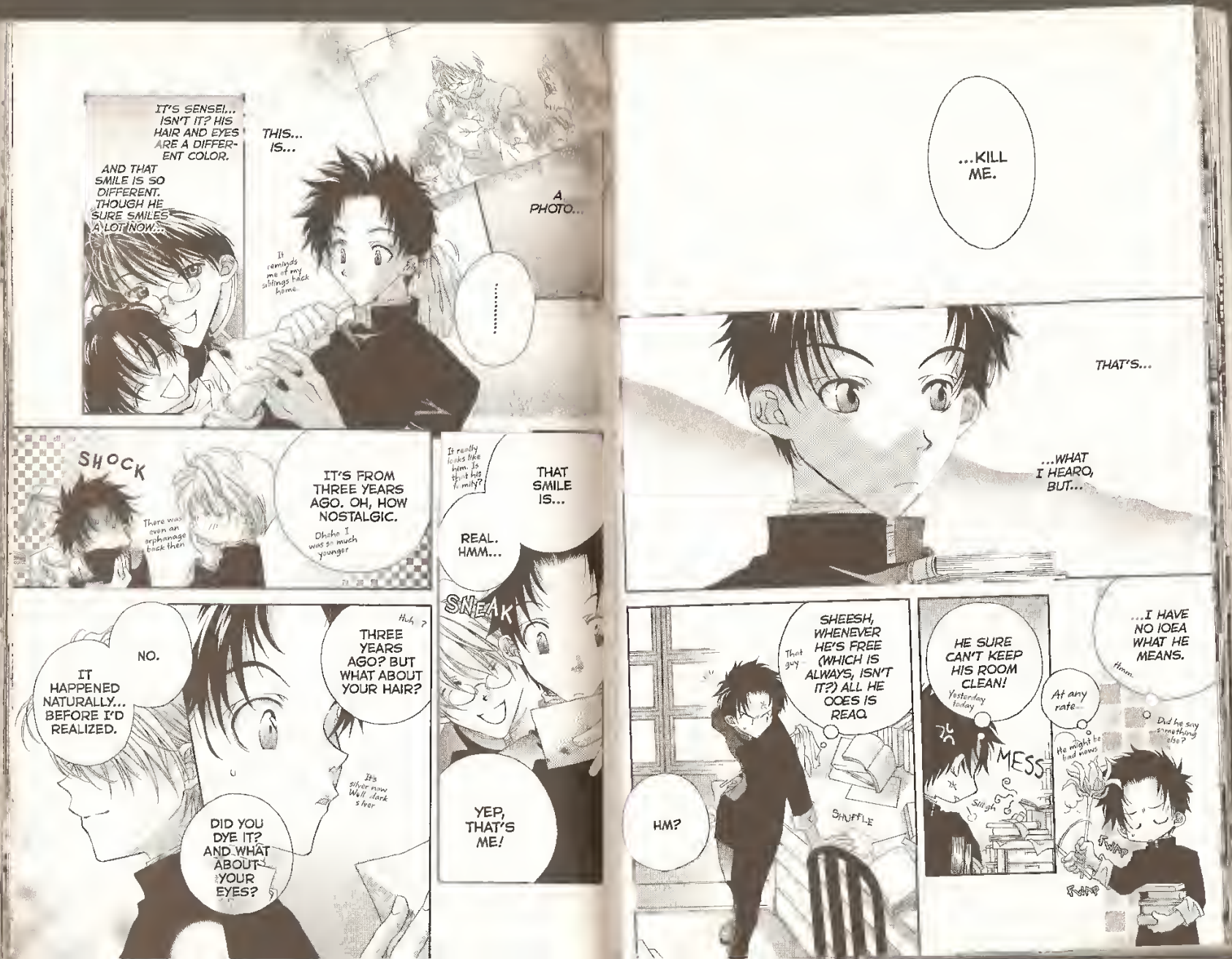

HE ALWAYS HAS THAT GOOFY SMILE... IT WEIROS ME OUT. I DON'T UNDERSTANO IT.
Can he pick up vibes?
AND IT REMINDS ME...
...IS A COMPLETE SOCIOPATH. HE HAS TO BE.
.....
THIS GUY...
...OF WHEN I FOUND OUT WHAT MY JOB REALLY WAS.
SENSEI!!
THADUMP THADUMP THADUMP
WH...!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT!?
THAT CORPSE WAS MOVING!!
THAT'S QUITE IMPRESSIVE. YOU OIO WHAT YOU HAO TO WITHOUT KNOWING WHY.
I OON'T CARE WHO IT IS! I WANT YOU TO TELL ME WHAT IT IS!!
IT WAS THE SHOE MAKER'S WIFE. SHE OIEO THREE OAYS AGO
TELL YOU WHAT?
PANT PANT WHEEZE
If you'd only cover the head clearly at a be a perfect pic!
LISTEN TO ME, YOU!!
ANY NORMAL PERSON WOULO TURN TAIL ANO–
SO I DID THE BEST I COULD WITH WHAT I GOT, BUT NOW YOU GOTTA EXPLAIN THINGS TO ME!!
THEN WHILE I'M TRYING TO PROCESS THAT, CORPSES START RISING OUTTA THE GRAVES LIKE SOME BAD HORROR FLICK!
EXPLAIN THIS! FIRST, YOU BRING ME TO A GRAVEYARD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND PUT A SWORD IN MY HAND!
HUH...?
YOU OIO A PASSABLE JOB.
WELL, YOU OION'T GET HURT... SO I'O SAY IT WAS A GOOO PERFORMANCE FOR YOUR FIRST TIME.

ALTHOUGH, AS FAR AS "EVENTUALLY" GOES...
MUTTER
...IT'S HARD TO SAY HOW MUCH TIME IS LEFT.
PLEASE, SPARE ME! YOU REALLY THINK I'D ENTRUST MY DUTIES TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU?
Talk about egotistical!
IN SHORT, WHAT? YOU GONNA SAY I'M JUST HERE FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE?
THAT YOU'RE LEAVING ME TO DEAL WITH THESE WALKING CORPSES ON MY OWN!?
That's what it is, isn't it?
You work me to the bone already!
EGOTISTICAL
WELL...
EVENTUALLY, I'D LIKE YOU TO BE THAT COMPETENT.
But could you at least develop some survival instinct?
Ouch

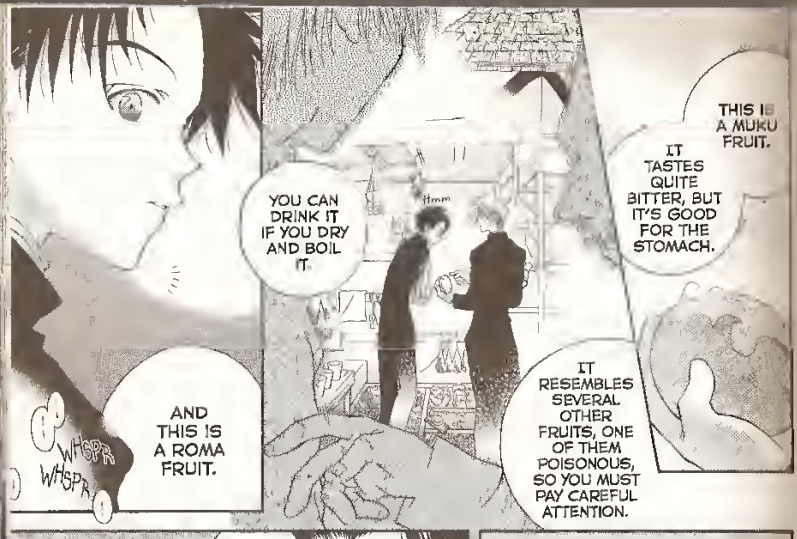
TAKI...
PLEASE REMEMBER THIS.
SOMEDAY, YOU...
...WILL HAVE TO...
...?

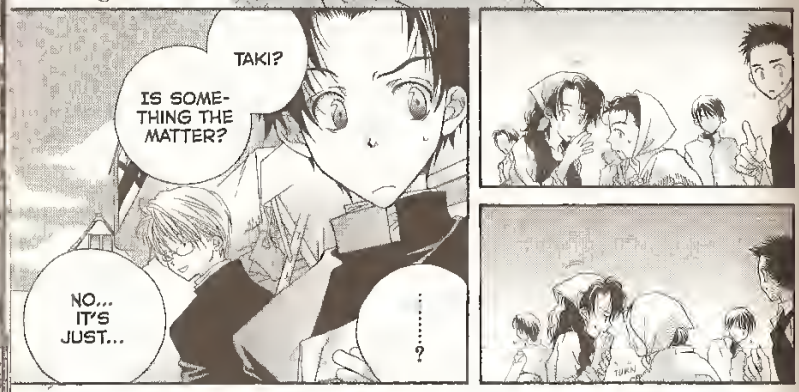
IN THIS AREA, THE DEAD RISING FROM THE GRAVE IS A COMMON OCCURRENCE.
LET ME EXPLAIN.
...AND BECOME QUITE A THREAT FOR THOSE STILL LIVING.
IT IS SAID THAT BY SOME MANNER OF CHANCE, DEMONS ENTER THESE DEAD...
THIS MAKES PEOPLE WHO CAN DEAL WITH THESE THINGS..."THE RESURRECTED," THEY'RE CALLED...QUITE NECESSARY.
IT'S NOT THAT I CAN'T DO THIS ON MY OWN, BUT IT'S RATHER INCONVENIENT.
I'm not always here, you know.
HENCE, FOR THESE PAST THREE YEARS OR SO, I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMEONE SUCH AS YOURSELF.
.....

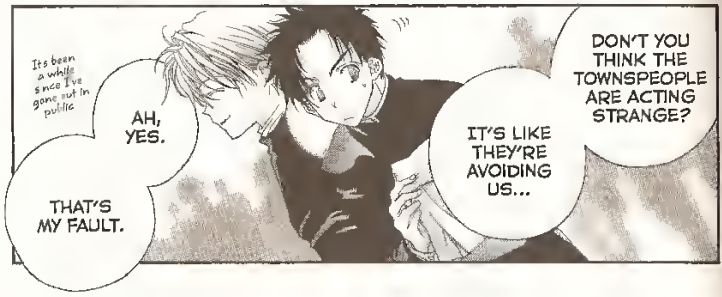

IN SHORT...
I...DIDN'T QUITE... GET ALL OF THAT...
.....
Er...

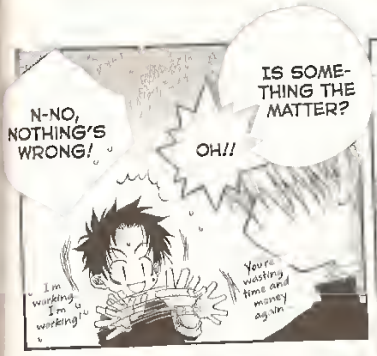

IT'S SENSEI... ISN'T IT? HIS HAIR AND EYES ARE A DIFFERENT COLOR.
AND THAT SMILE IS SO DIFFERENT. THOUGH HE SURE SMILES A LOT NOW...
THIS... IS...
A PHOTO...
It reminds me of my siblings back home
.....
...KILL ME.
THAT'S...
...WHAT I HEARD, BUT...
SHOCK
There was even an orphanage back then
IT'S FROM THREE YEARS AGO. OH, HOW NOSTALGIC.
Ohshe I was so much younger
It really looks like him. Is that his family?
THAT SMILE IS...
REAL. HMM...
SNEAK
YEP, THAT'S ME!
NO.
IT HAPPENED NATURALLY... BEFORE I'D REALIZED.
Huh?
THREE YEARS AGO? BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR HAIR?
It's silver now Well dark silver
DID YOU DYE IT? AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR EYES?
That guy
SHEESH, WHENEVER HE'S FREE (WHICH IS ALWAYS, ISN'T IT?) ALL HE DOES IS READ.
HM?
SHUFFLE
HE SURE CAN'T KEEP HIS ROOM CLEAN!
Yesterday today
MESS
Sigh
At any rate...
He might be bad news
...I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE MEANS.
Hmm
Did he say something else?
FWAP
FWAP

IS THERE SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT IT?
I'M USED TO IT BY NOW! I DON'T CARE.
IF YOU'RE GONNA LAUGH AT ME, GO AHEAD.
WHY WOULD I?
Huh...
NOT EVEN A LITTLE?
Not at all!
NOT AT ALL?
THAT'S RIGHT.
MY, THAT'S RARE FOR THIS DAY AND AGE.
...HOW MUCH I'VE BEEN MADE FUN OF FOR IT.
SINCE YOU CAN READ, YOU WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND...
IS THAT SO?
WELL...
IT'S EMBAR-RASSING, 'CAUSE IT'S SOMETHING EVERYONE CAN DO.
WHEN YOU'RE FREE, I'LL TEACH YOU.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE WILLING, LEARNING IS EASY.
THEN YOU SHOULD LEARN.
...ANY TIME YOU WASTE IS TAKEN DIRECTLY OUT OF YOUR SALARY. UNDER-STAND?
Crap!
YES, SIR!!
SCURRY
what's the point if my making a mess?
If you don't clean up SHUFFLE
PUTTING THEM AWAY OUT OF ORDER IS JUST AS INCONVENIENT AS LEAVING THEM AROUND.
WOULD YOU ORGANIZE MY BOOKS FROM NOW ON?
ALSO, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK...
...I CAN'T READ.
BECAUSE ...
Cause you're the one who leaves 'em out!
SORRY, BUT I CAN'T.
.....
ANYWAY, JUST SO YOU KNOW...
WELL, IT'S A LONG STORY.
BUT HOW COULD IT BE NATURAL !?
NATURALLY !?
But what about your eyes?
The hair I get


THIS IS A MUKU FRUIT.
IT TASTES QUITE BITTER, BUT IT'S GOOD FOR THE STOMACH.
YOU CAN DRINK IT IF YOU DRY AND BOIL IT.
Hmm
AND THIS IS A ROMA FRUIT.
WHSPR WHSPR
IT RESEMBLES SEVERAL OTHER FRUITS, ONE OF THEM POISONOUS, SO YOU MUST PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION.

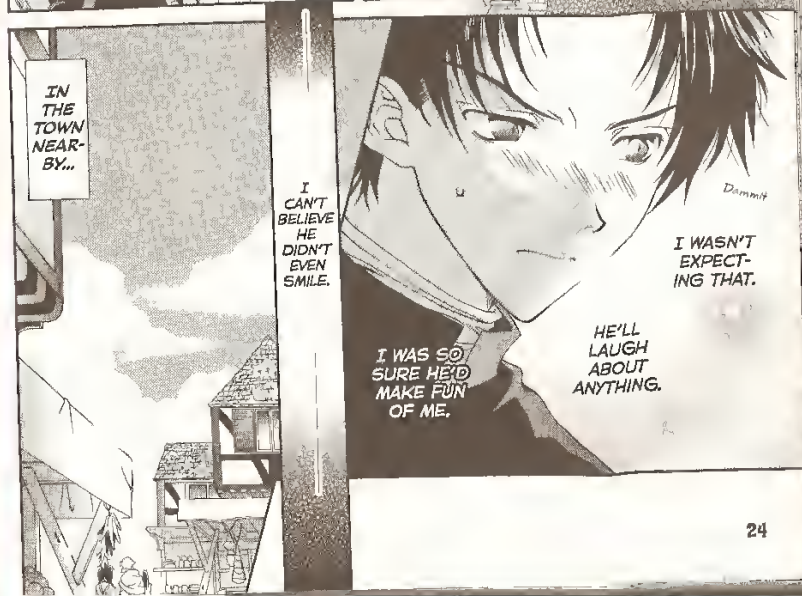

TAKI?
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
NO... IT'S JUST...
.....?


It's been a while since I've gone out in public
AH, YES.
THAT'S MY FAULT.
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE AVOIDING US...
DON'T YOU THINK THE TOWNSPEOPLE ARE ACTING STRANGE?


N-NO, NOTHING'S WRONG!
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
OH!!
I'm working! I'm working!
You're wasting time and money again.

ONLY WHEN HE'S FREE.
THAT SURPRISED ME.
Can A work as fast as he can hate?
He even he can have serious moments. That's sensei for you!
THADUMP THADUMP

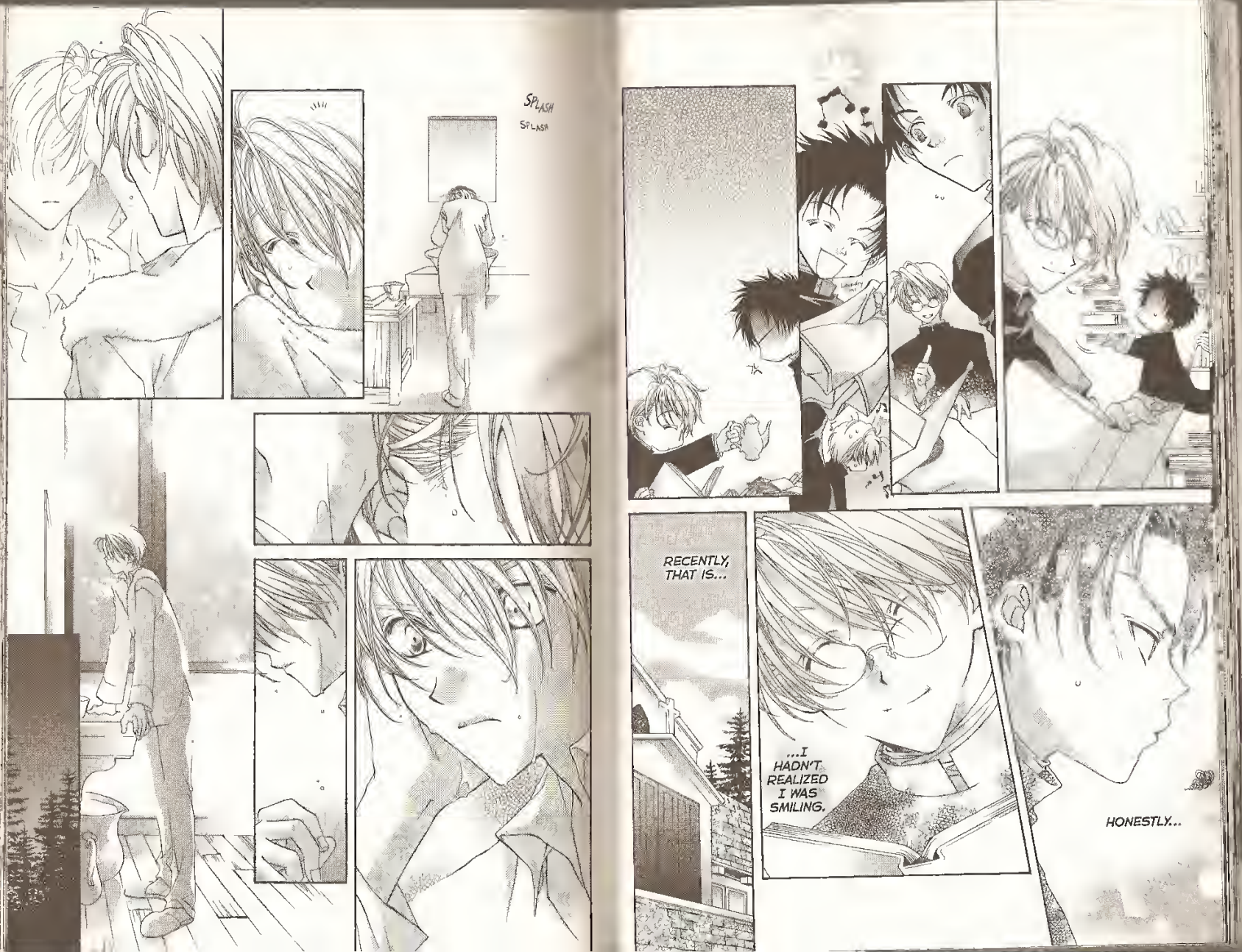
Hm?


IN THE TOWN NEARBY...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DIDN'T EVEN SMILE.
Dammit
I WASN'T EXPECTING THAT.
I WAS SO SURE HE'D MAKE FUN OF ME.
HE'LL LAUGH ABOUT ANYTHING.

THAT'S HOW THEY ARE.
HUMAN HEARTS, I MEAN.
What!?
BUT...! BUT IT'S ALL FOR THEIR SAKE!
YES, IT IS.
Let's go home
THERE ARE OTHER REASONS... I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND.
Right?
IT'S BECAUSE EVERYONE KNOWS...
...WHAT I DO IN THE CEMETERY AT NIGHT. IT OFFENDS THEM.
.....
THE REASON THEY CAN GO THROUGH LIFE WITHOUT HAVING TO DIRTY THEIR HANDS...
WHAT DOES HE...?
EVEN THOUGH HE'S THE REASON THEY LIVE IN PEACE...
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN...?

THANKS.
MUTTER
OF COURSE. HOW MUCH?
THAT'LL BE ONE COPPER COIN.
PLACE THE MONEY IN THAT DISH THERE.
HUH?
WAIT A MINUTE, SENSEI.
YOU'RE GOING TO BUY THAT FRUIT YOU'VE BEEN TOUCHING, RIGHT?
.....?
I'd like to buy this!
Thank you
TMP TMP TMP
SHIFT
MOVE
WHY'D HE MAKE HIM PUT IT IN THE DISH? IT WOULD'VE BEEN FASTER TO TAKE THE MONEY BY HAND.
HOW RUDE...
JINGLE
THAT'LL BE TWO COPPER COINS. PUT THEM THERE, PLEASE...
What bad manners!
WHAT IS WITH THOSE GUYS!?
TREATING YOU LIKE YOU'RE DIRTY OR SOMETHING!
Aah
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A RATHER CONVENIENT INTERPRETATION?
That felt good to get out
YOU'RE THE TYPE WHO ALWAYS SAYS WHAT'S ON HIS MIND, HUH?
YEP!!
.....
SAY WHATEVER YOU LIKE! I KNOW YOU'RE NOT A BAD GUY.
UH...BUT, THERE'S REALLY A LOT MORE TO IT THAT YOU'D–
HEY, I CAN THINK WHATEVER I WANT.
BUT I'M NOT FORCING MYSELF...
I MEAN IT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF AROUND ME.
OH, AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO SMILE LIKE THAT.
CLOSE
WHAT IS–
I'M SORRY, I WAS WRONG!!
HOW THE HELL IS THAT FAIR!?
SENSE!!!
YES?
THE TRUTH IS, I'VE HATED YOU THIS WHOLE TIME.
Can you blame me!?
HUH?
I SEE.
Thanks a lot
BUT I REALIZE I WAS WRONG. THOSE UNGRATEFUL PEOPLE...THE WAY YOU PROTECT THEM ANYWAY...
If it were me I'd hate it!
I'M SURE I COULD GROW TO LIKE YOU. SO YOU CAN TRUST ME A BIT MORE.
I MAY NOT UNDERSTAND YOU, BUT I AT LEAST KNOW YOU'RE A KIND PERSON!
...THAT'S ALL.


SPLASH
SPLASH
RECENTLY, THAT IS...
...I HADN'T REALIZED I WAS SMILING.
HONESTLY...

YOU SAID...
...I'D HAVE TO KILL YOU..
THAT FIRST NIGHT IN THE GRAVEYARD...
SENSEI...
...TELL ME SOME-THING.
WHAT DID YOU MEAN?
IN OTHER WORDS, I–
?
...SOMEDAY YOU'LL–
WAIT A SECOND.
THAT'S THE PART I DON'T GET. WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH–
JUST WHAT I MEANT.
YOU SIGNED ON FOR THIS JOB.
AND YOUR TASK IS TO DEAL WITH THE RESURRECT-ED. SO...

THAT WAS ABOUT 70% EFFORT...
YOU MIGHT BE IMPROVING A LITTLE.
SHEESH.
You're so demanding
GRUMBLE
YOU'RE NOT DOING WELL ENOUGH FOR PRAISE YET.
What you want a pat on the head?
FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD, YOU'RE SO RUDE! JUST PRAISE ME ALREADY.
YOU REALLY...
...DON'T FEAR ANY-THING.
I COULD TELL RIGHT AWAY...YOU'RE NOT TIMID AT ALL.

SPLAT
YOU WERE NEGLIGENT.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU? THEY WON'T STOP UNTIL YOU CUT OFF THE HEAD.
...A BIT MORE VIOLENT. YOU'RE LUCKY YOU ONLY GOT SCRATCHED.
THESE GUYS ARE AS PERSISTENT AS COCK-ROACHES.
ALTHOUGH ...
WHAT DO-
SPLAT
OH, DEAR.
YOU'RE STILL BEING CARE-LESS, TAKI.
HUH?
YOU --!
.....!!

SENSEI.
ARE YOU...ARE YOU EVEN HUMAN!?
WHAT A BLIND, *STUPID* THING TO THINK!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I THOUGHT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET ALONG WITH YOU...
I'VE HAD ENOUGH! I FINALLY *DO* SEE THE REAL YOU!!
ACHE
I'M GOING HOME!

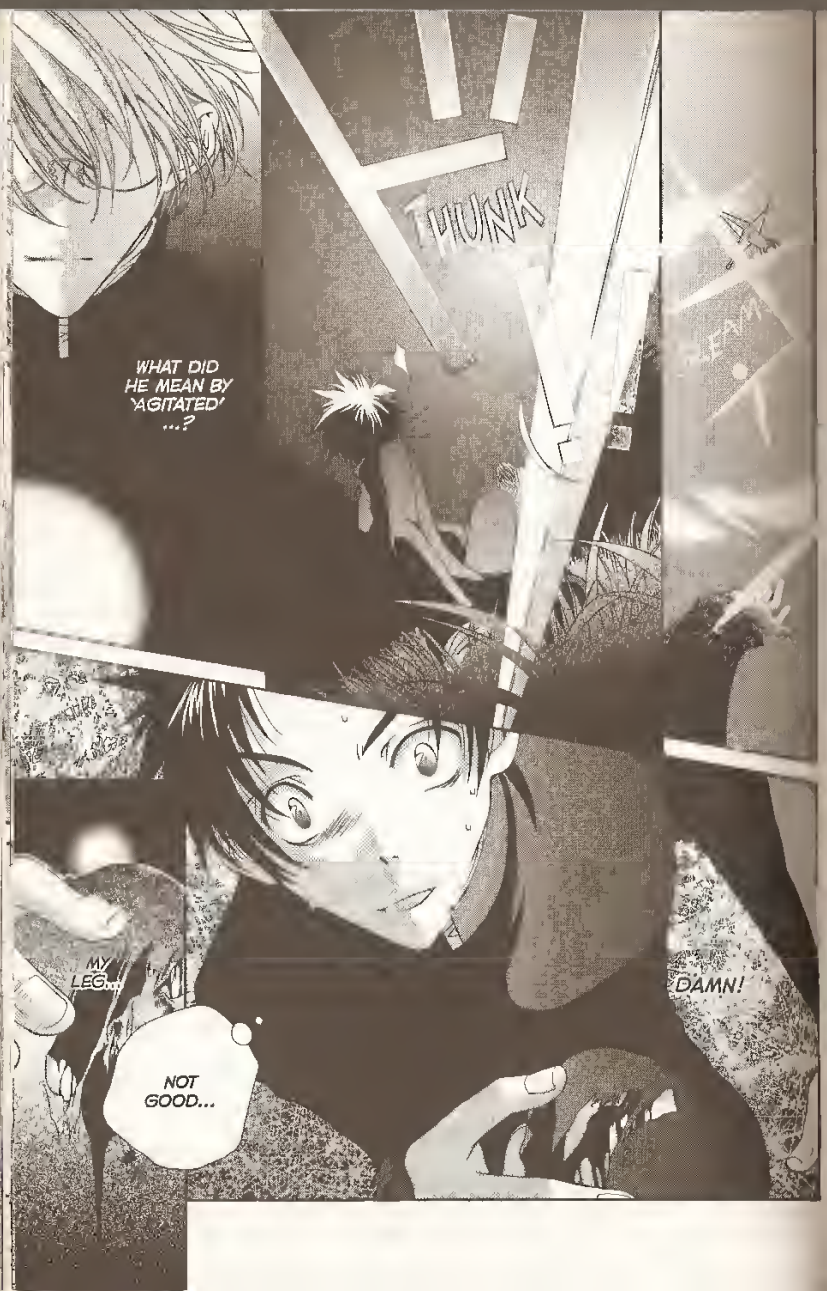
WAIT A MINUTE!
DON'T TOY WITH ME!!
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO DO!? YOU SAW IT COMING, DIDN'T YOU!?
YOU LITTLE ...!
I WANT YOU TO LEARN HOW TO FACE THE DEMONS ON YOUR OWN.
PAIN IS A GOOD TEACHER. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET HURT, YOU'LL TRY HARDER.
I'M NOT YOUR GUARDIAN, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THINKING.
PLEASE DON'T MISUNDER-STAND.
SO WHY--
CLENCH
DON'T WORRY. I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR WANTING TO HIT ME.
—

SWEEP
I DON'T KNOW! I JUST DON'T KNOW!
SWEEP
SWEEP
GASP
YOU SHOULD MASH THIS AND APPLY IT TO THE WOUND.
WRONG. THAT'S A KIKU FRUIT, IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY MEDICINAL PROPERTIES.
Aren't these the exact same plant?
WHAT HEALS THE SWELLING IS THE KURA FRUIT.
SWEEP

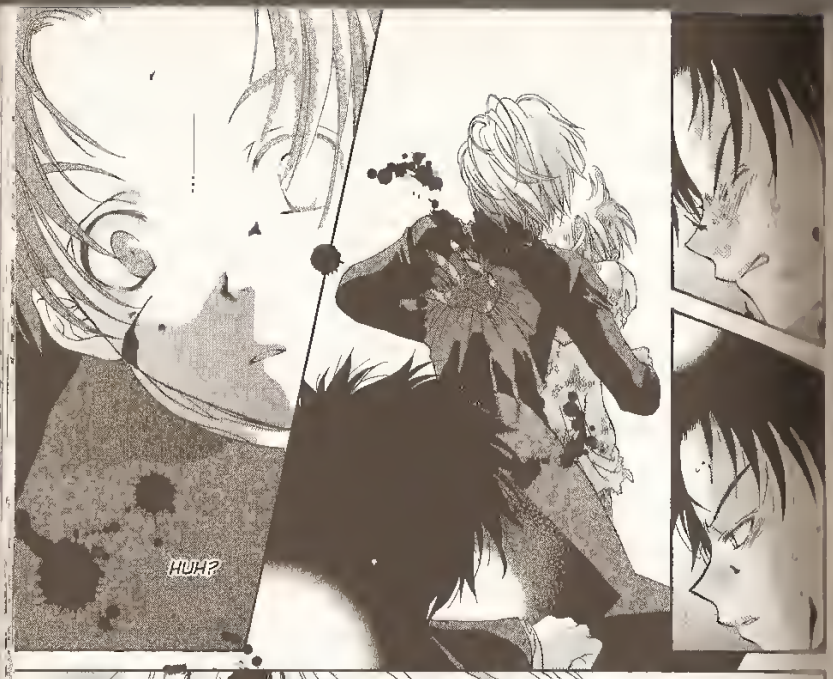
THE WOUND WASN'T THAT DEEP, BUT IT JUST WON'T STOP HURTING...
DAMMIT.
THROB THROB
IRK IRK
IT KEPT ME UP ALL NIGHT. THIS SUCKS.
HAVING ME DO A FULL DAY'S WORK, IN MY CONDITION!
I'D PLANNED TO SPLIT RIGHT THEN AND THERE, BUT...
OR SO I SAID.
WOBBLE
ACHE ACHE
And here I am doing it anyway
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT GUY! WHAT IS HE, A DEMON HIMSELF!?
...THE NEW LEAVES OF THE SHIMA PLANT, RIGHT?
LET ME THINK...TO STOP THE PAIN AND THE SWELLING, I'D WANT...
Intuition was the only thing I ever really believed in...
WELL, SHOWS HOW MUCH I KNOW.
I KNEW HE WAS BLUNT AND DISTANT, BUT I THOUGHT THAT...DEEP DOWN...
I DIDN'T THINK HE WAS THIS COLD.
THROB THROB
OOOW!!
WHEN I'M DONE WITH THIS, I'LL HAVE TO RUB SOME MEDICINE ON IT...
SWEEP
SWEEP SWEEP
I SWEAR.
THIS REALLY SUCKS.

HUH?
AGITATED...
MUTTER
THAT'S HOW HE FELT, I THINK...
(EVEN NOW...
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ONE STEP BEHIND.
HE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN TOO FAR. LET'S GO.
THE MORE TIME THAT PASSES, THE MORE TROUBLE HE'LL BE.
I ALWAYS COULD, BUT...
CAN'T YOU USUALLY TELL WHEN THEY'RE ABOUT TO...?
Well, well.
.....
WIPE WIPE
SWEEP SWEEP
FWIP FWIP
.....
SQUEAK SQUEAK
.....
THIS IS SO AWKWARD!
What am I supposed to say to him!?
WRING
Ugh, hair in my way!
WH...
WHAT?
Ack, so suddenly...
Crap, I spoke to him!
GET READY, QUICKLY. WE'RE GOING OUT.
SURPRISE !!
TAKI.
CLATTER
Eek!
Urgh... can't reach...

TMP
LEAP
ERGH!
TAKI!!
...TO LOOK...
?
...THAT FEELING...
...STILL LINGERS.
ANYWAY ...
LET'S SPLIT UP...
AH!
CLANG
WHAT THE..!
HE'S GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO MOVING HIS BODY.
They're sluggish when they wake
HE'S GAINED HIS NORMAL ABILITIES. WE HAVE TO DISPOSE OF HIM QUICKLY.
HEY, WHAT IS THAT THING!? THE OTHERS WEREN'T THIS FAST!


WHAT DID HE MEAN BY 'AGITATED' ...?
THUNK
BEAM
MY LEG...
NOT GOOD...
DAMN!

ALL RIGHT. I GOTTA DO THIS FAST.
I MAY CT LIKE IT...
EVEN WITHOUT HIS ADVICE...
...BUT I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE
IF WE DON'T ACT FAST, HIS INTELLIGENCE WILL BE RESTORED.
SO, WE MUST--
GOT IT!
Can I finish...?
DASH
!!
HE DIDN'T TELL ME I WAS IN DANGER.
WHY?
YESTERDAY...
SHING
...HE DIDN'T TRY TO HELP ME AT ALL.
WAIT... ADVICE?
WAS HE ACTUALLY CONCERNED FOR ME?
ACTUALLY, I REMEMBER...
TAKI!!


HUH?

YOU REALLY TAKE YOUR TIME, DON'T YOU?

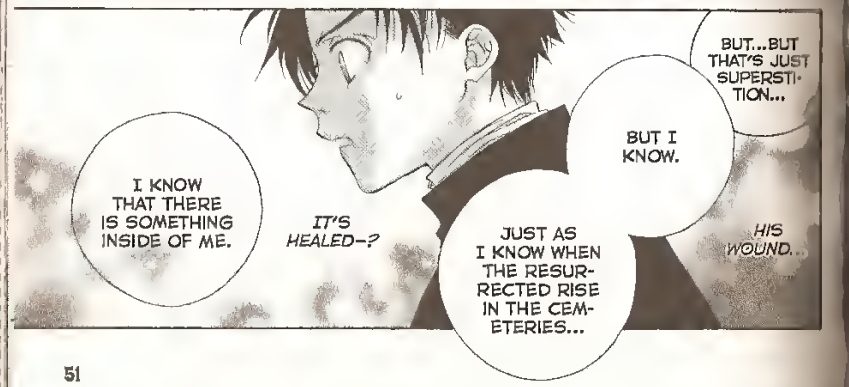
I CAN'T–
DASH
GRIN
I CAN'T MOVE.

I CAN'T GET AWAY–

YOU NEED...
...A DOCTOR...
HE PRO-TECTED ME?
Very Confused
YOUR...
YOUR CHEST! YOU'RE HURT!!
WHY...
...DID YOU...
A...ARE YOU... OKAY?
YOU...
GRAB
IDIOT! YOU'RE ANY-THING BUT FINE! WE HAVE TO GET...
TAKI.
REMEMBER WHAT YOU ASKED ME YESTERDAY?
WHAT?
YOU ASKED IF I...
...AM REALLY HUMAN.
I'M FINE.

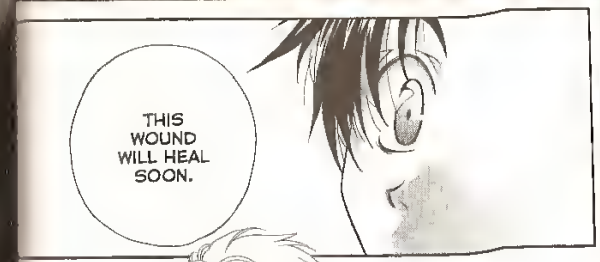
GRAB
SENSEI!?
WHA...

THE LOCALS ALL KNOW ABOUT IT.
THEY'RE MORE FRIGHTENED OF ME THAN OF WHAT I DO IN THE CEMETERIES AT NIGHT.
HUH?
AFRAID OF ME, WHO'S GRADUALLY LOSING THE ABILITY TO FEEL, WHOSE HAIR AND EYES ARE TURNING SILVER.
IT'S AN EXTREMELY RARE CASE...
...A HUMAN TURNING INTO A DEMON. IT'S WORSE THAN MERELY BEING POSSESSED BY A DEMONIC SPIRIT, AND UNLIKE THE LATTER CASE I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANYONE RECOVERING.
IN THIS REGION, SILVER IS THE COLOR OF DEATH. THE COLOR ASSOCIATED WITH DEMONS.

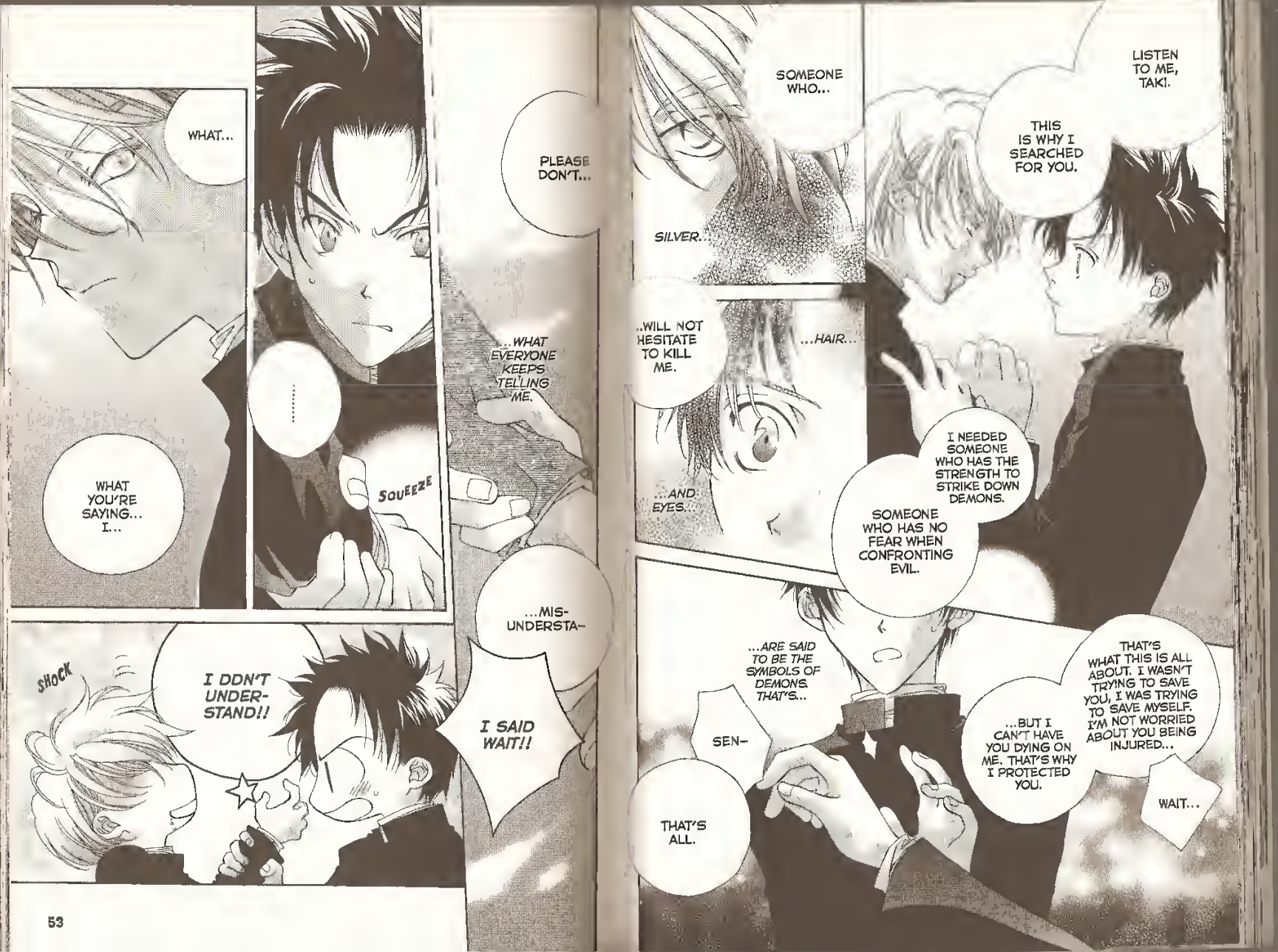

BUT...BUT THAT'S JUST SUPERSTITION...
BUT I KNOW.
I KNOW THAT THERE IS SOMETHING INSIDE OF ME.
IT'S HEALED-?
HIS WOUND...
JUST AS I KNOW WHEN THE RESURRECTED RISE IN THE CEMETERIES...

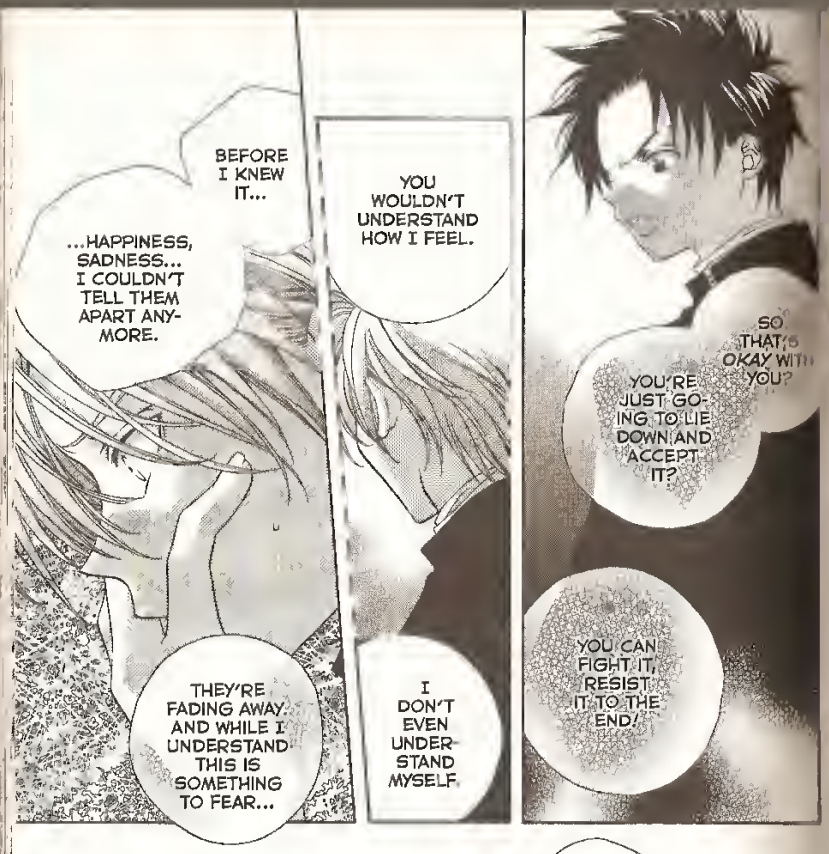
MY ANSWER IS...
"NO."
YOU DER- AND?

HUH...?


THIS WOUND WILL HEAL SOON.

LET ME...
...TELL YOU THE REST OF MY STORY, TAKI.
...IS BECAUSE THIS BODY...
...WILL BECOME A DEMON.
THE REASON YOU'LL NEED TO KILL ME SOMEDAY...


LISTEN TO ME, TAKI.
THIS IS WHY I SEARCHED FOR YOU.
I NEEDED SOMEONE WHO HAS THE STRENGTH TO STRIKE DOWN DEMONS.
SOMEONE WHO HAS NO FEAR WHEN CONFRONTING EVIL.
SOMEONE WHO...
SILVER...
...HAIR...
...AND EYES...
..WILL NOT HESITATE TO KILL ME.
...ARE SAID TO BE THE SYMBOLS OF DEMONS. THAT'S...
SEN-
THAT'S ALL.
...BUT I CAN'T HAVE YOU DYING ON ME. THAT'S WHY I PROTECTED YOU.
THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT. I WASN'T TRYING TO SAVE YOU, I WAS TRYING TO SAVE MYSELF. I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT YOU BEING INJURED...
WAIT...
WHAT...
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING... I...
.....
SQUEEZE
PLEASE DON'T...
...WHAT EVERYONE KEEPS TELLING ME.
...MIS-UNDERSTA-
I SAID WAIT!!
SHOCK
I DON'T UNDER-STAND!!


BEFORE I KNEW IT...
...HAPPINESS, SADNESS... I COULDN'T TELL THEM APART ANY-MORE.
THEY'RE FADING AWAY. AND WHILE I UNDERSTAND THIS IS SOMETHING TO FEAR...
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL.
I DON'T EVEN UNDER-STAND MYSELF.
SO THAT'S OKAY WITH YOU?
YOU'RE JUST GO-ING TO LIE DOWN AND ACCEPT IT?
YOU CAN FIGHT IT, RESIST IT TO THE END!

...IT'S TOO LATE–
IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHY... YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID THAT...
...IF YOU CAN'T READ, YOU SHOULD LEARN HOW.

WHY DO YOU PUT YOURSELF THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
I MAY NOT BE TOO BRIGHT, BUT I CAN'T SHAKE MY INTUITION.

But I explained it for three pages!!
Yes!
NO, I MEANT I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU CAN FEEL THAT WAY!
Wait, that didn't come out right! Uh- let's see.

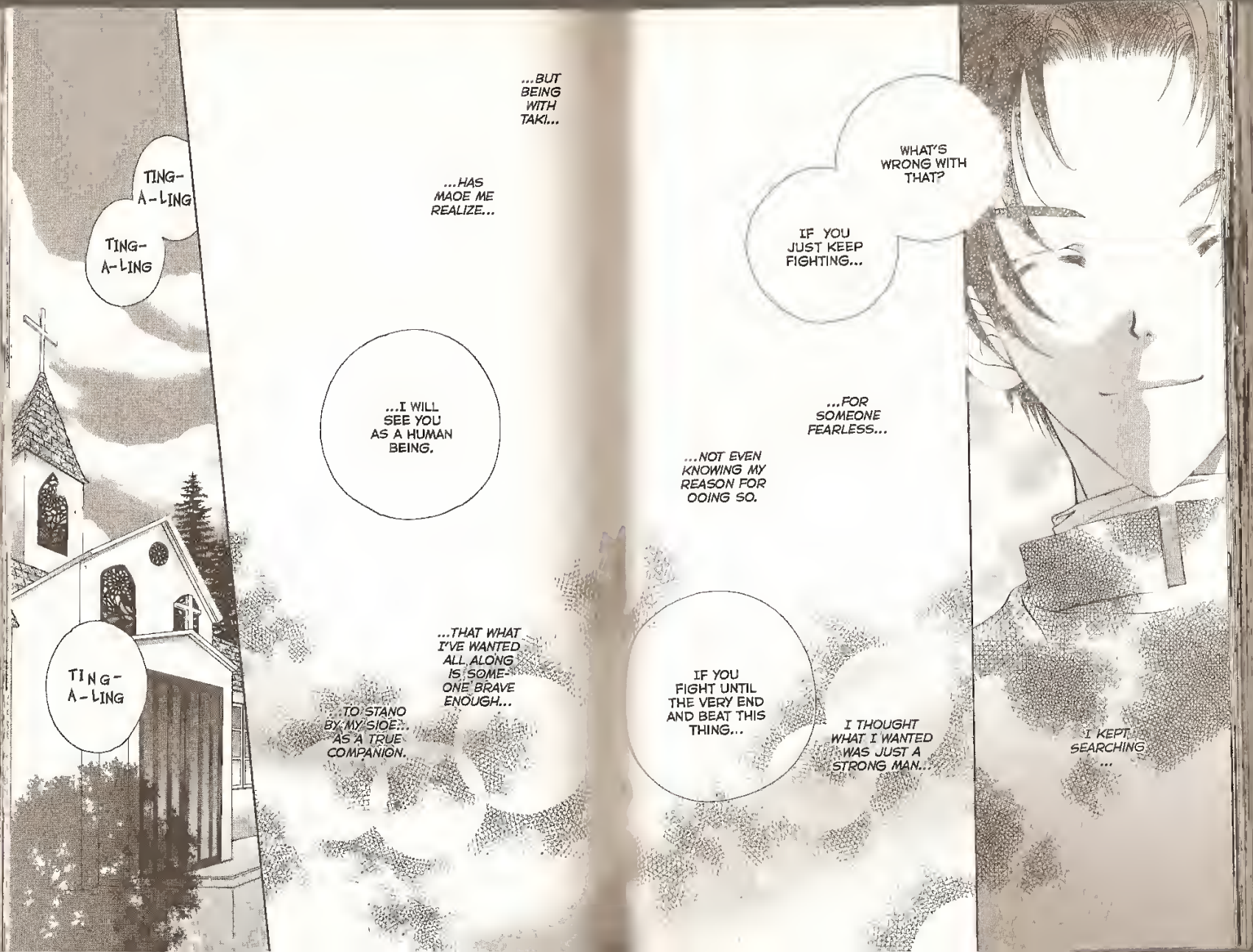
YOU WRAP YOURSELF IN THIS APATHY, BUT...
I'M NOT DOING IT ON PURPOSE. I TOLD YOU, I–
"...WILL SOMEDAY BECOME A DEMON," RIGHT?
I FINALLY UNDER-STAND.
I WAS ALWAYS SO FRUSTRATED BECAUSE I COULDN'T READ YOU.
AFTER ALL, JUST NOW...
YOU ALWAYS PRETEND TO BE SO COLD. LIKE RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE TRYING TO UPSET ME!
...HE SAVED ME.

THE DAY WE WENT INTO TOWN...
...AND YESTERDAY, TOO.
YOU'RE JUST BELIEVING WHAT EVERY-ONE SAYS ABOUT YOU!

.....
BUT... WHAT IF...
...IT DOESN'T CHANGE ANY-THING?
AND ANYWAY, YOU'RE NOT A DEMON YET!
FIGHT IT! I'LL HELP!
WE'LL FIND A WAY TO-GETHER!
IF IN THE END, THERE'S STILL NO HOPE...
...WILL YOU GRANT ME THE RELEASE OF DEATH?
I UNDER-STAND. YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.
DON'T GIVE UP.
IF HUMANS CAN TURN INTO DEMONS, THE OPPOSITE SHOULD BE POSSIBLE, TOO.
THERE COULD BE...
...A WAY FOR DEMONS TO TURN BACK INTO HUMANS!!

AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME THAT?
-THAT AS LONG AS YOU'RE WILLING...
...LEARNING IS EASY.
AND YET HERE YOU ARE, JUST GIVING UP!?
YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR FATE! DO YOU THINK I'M WRONG?
IS THE FUTURE ALREADY DECIDED FOR US?
IT CAN'T BE!

.....
THANKS TO YOU...
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, MAKING A DECISION LIKE THIS ON YOUR OWN?
ANYWAY!
THAT'S MY DECISION, AND I'M STICKING TO IT!
AND JUST TO LET YOU KNOW, I DON'T INTEND TO DIE IN VAIN!!
...I'LL DIE RIGHT ALONGSIDE YOU!
I'LL KILL YOU CLEANLY, WITHOUT ANY PAIN.
AND THEN...
...I HAVE NO CHOICE...
...BUT TO BE BRAVE AND NOT GIVE UP.
I'M BEING SERIOUS ...!
D...!
I...I'M SORRY, I COULDN'T HELP IT...
DON'T LAUGH!
Ha!
you couldn't help it!?
HEH...
.....
!?


TING-A-LING
TING-A-LING
TING-A-LING
...I WILL SEE YOU AS A HUMAN BEING.
...HAS MADE ME REALIZE...
...BUT BEING WITH TAKI...
...TO STAND BY MY SIDE... AS A TRUE COMPANION.
...THAT WHAT I'VE WANTED ALL ALONG IS SOMEONE BRAVE ENOUGH...
IF YOU FIGHT UNTIL THE VERY END AND BEAT THIS THING...
I THOUGHT WHAT I WANTED WAS JUST A STRONG MAN...
...NOT EVEN KNOWING MY REASON FOR DOING SO.
...FOR SOMEONE FEARLESS...
IF YOU JUST KEEP FIGHTING...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
I KEPT SEARCHING ...

SORRY, I CAN'T. YOUR FACE WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY IS JUST SO FUNNY!
IS THAT SO? WELL, THAT'S NICE...
FOR EXAMPLE, RIGHT NOW I'M HAVING QUITE A BIT OF FUN.
IS...!
BUT AT THE MOMENT, I'M GETTING RE-
SHOULDN'T YOU AT LEAST SYMPATHIZE!?
THERE YOU GO AGAIN, WORKING ME LIKE A DOG FOR YOUR OWN AMUSEMENT!
UGH! WOULD YOU GROW UP ALREADY !?
HUFF
PANT
MESS~
TMP TMP TMP TMP
BAM!!
I'M NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL.
YOU'RE JUST PLAIN CRUEL, AREN'T YOU? ADMIT IT!
Admit it! Be sincere about some thing!
Tea please?
Ah
YOU ONLY TOOK A MINUTE AND A HALF. SEE, YOU'RE LEARNING!
WRONG ANSWER!
YOU NEED TO STUDY HARDER, YOU PITIFUL DEMON!
At least make an effort!
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!! NOT ONE BIT!
DAMN YOU!
Ha ha ha!
SNRIEK
I'M TELLING YOU, I'M NOT. A HA HA HA!
OH, NO!? LIKE HOW!?
ERGH ...!
SNAP
BLACK SUN SILVER MOON ✝END

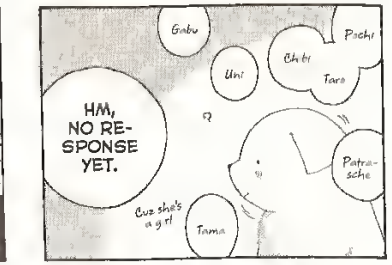
PERSON WITH A KIND HAND

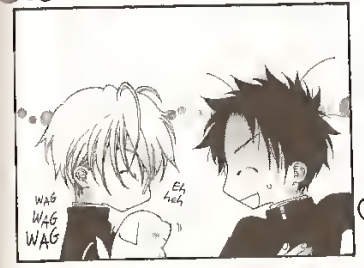
I'VE BEEN...

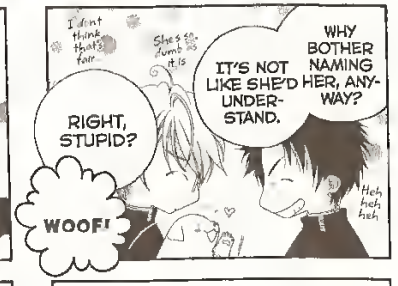
...LOOKING FOR A HAND...

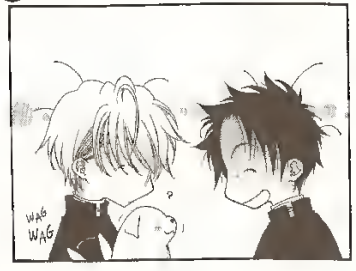
...FOR A LONG TIME.

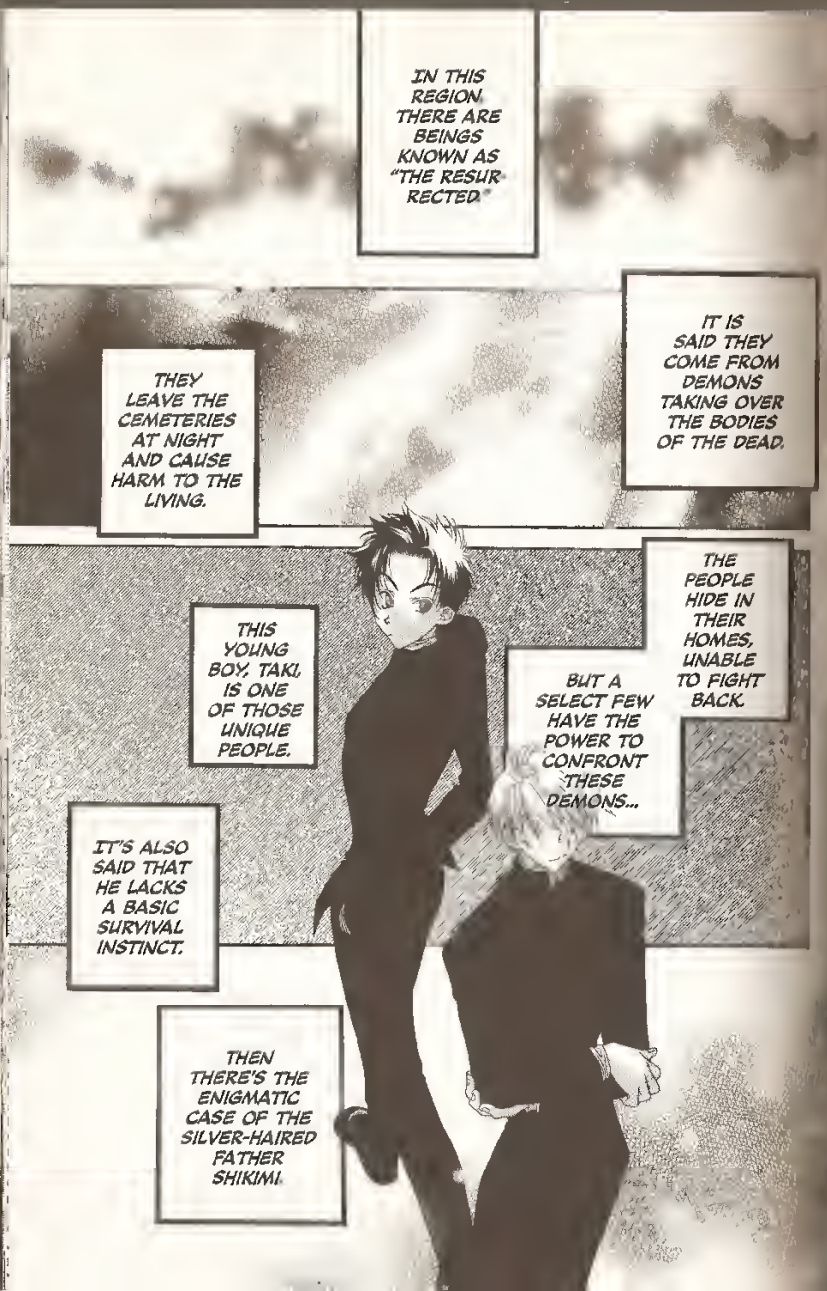
Let's Give Her a Name










IN THIS REGION THERE ARE BEINGS KNOWN AS "THE RESURRECTED."
IT IS SAID THEY COME FROM DEMONS TAKING OVER THE BODIES OF THE DEAD.
THEY LEAVE THE CEMETERIES AT NIGHT AND CAUSE HARM TO THE LIVING.
THE PEOPLE HIDE IN THEIR HOMES, UNABLE TO FIGHT BACK.
THIS YOUNG BOY, TAKI, IS ONE OF THOSE UNIQUE PEOPLE.
BUT A SELECT FEW HAVE THE POWER TO CONFRONT THESE DEMONS...
IT'S ALSO SAID THAT HE LACKS A BASIC SURVIVAL INSTINCT.
THEN THERE'S THE ENIGMATIC CASE OF THE SILVER-HAIRED FATHER SHIKIMI.

やさしいてのひと
PERSON WITH A KIND HAND

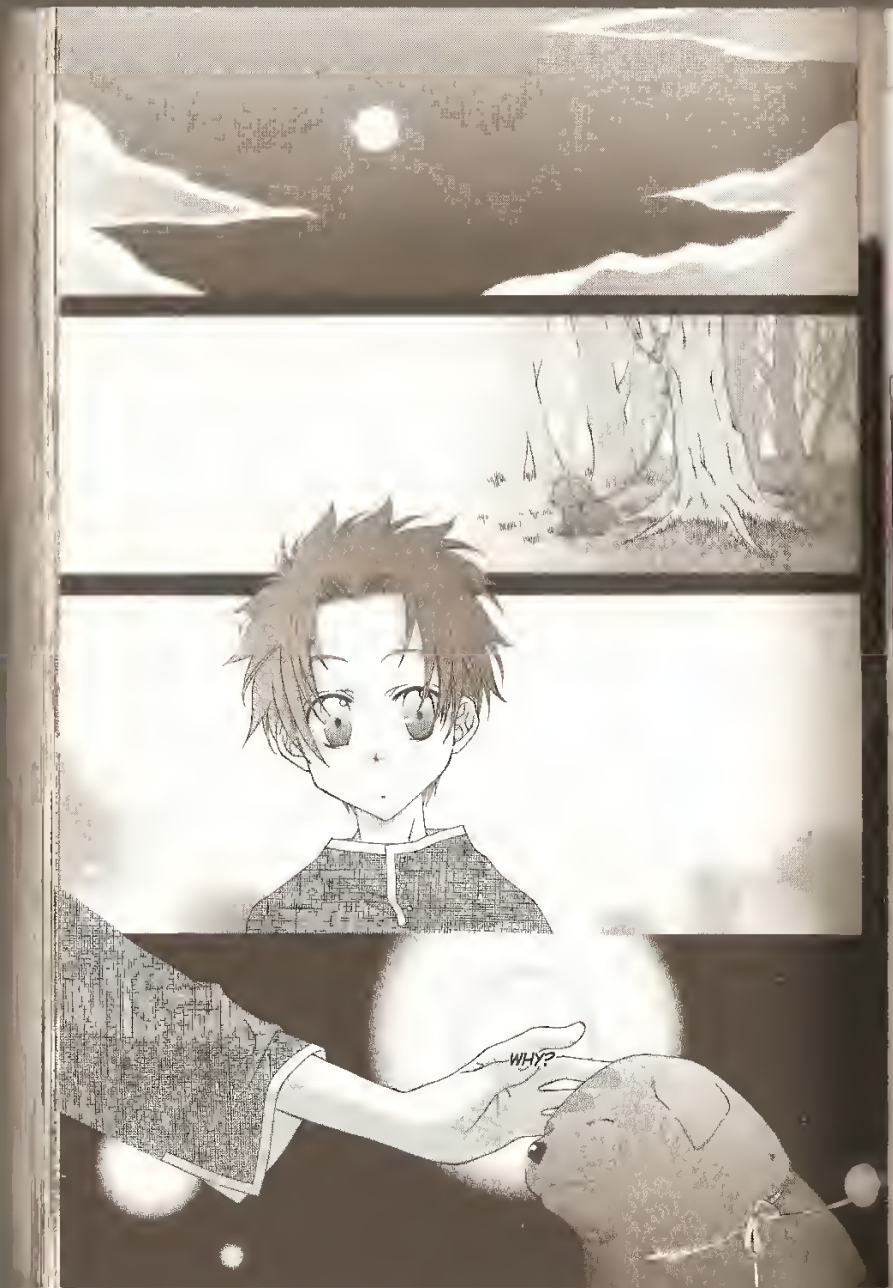
TAKI FOUND A DOG. (OR PERHAPS THE OTHER WAY AROUND.)
WAG
WAG
WAG
SHIKIMI-SENSEI...
GET IT OFF.
Get this thing off me.
IT WAS A SILVER-HAIRED PUPPY.
!
IT'S DEFECTIVE.
LICK
LICK
LAP
DRIBBLE
AH!
THAT'S A RATHER STRANGE HAT YOU HAVE THERE.
He's an adult not a child
Thought I'd brought a puppy home...
THOUGH THE TWO ADMITTEDLY HAVE A DARK FATE...
I thought maybe you'd help me with my readi—
Sensei! I finished cleaning
DESPITE THIS, THEY GET ALONG WELL.
MOST OF THE TIME, ANYWAY.
MESSY
Ah! Here to clean up? Thank you!
THE QUIET, PEACEFUL DAYS CONTINUED...
...WITH VERY LITTLE TO BREAK THE PATTERN.
UNTIL ONE DAY...
TAKI, WHO CAME TO REPAY HIS FATHER'S DEBT...
...TO THIS MAN WHO WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME A DEMON...
...HAS PROMISED TO KILL HIM WHEN THE TIME COMES.

SHIVER
SHOOP
ARF
SLIP
HEH...
FREEZE
SHOOP
RETREAT
SQUIRM SQUIRM
A HUMAN WHO FEARS NOTHING, WHO'LL TAKE A LEAK IN A ZOMBIE-INFESTED CEMETERY AT NIGHT WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT, AND LIVES WITH A HALF-DEMON LIKE MYSELF...
I-I'M NOT SCARED OF THAT PEA-SIZED MUTT!
JUST...
TO THINK YOU'RE AFRAID OF A PUPPY WHO'S BARELY ONE-TENTH YOUR SIZE!
I only tried taking a leak!
It's not like she's a monster!
This is killing me! Stop it, please!
AH HA HA HA
...GET IT OFF ME.
Help
AS YOU CAN SEE.
Get her off!
CHOMP
Oh my
...SHE ATTACKED ME FROM BEHIND.
EARLIER ...WHEN I WAS CLEANING...
WHERE'D YOU FIND HER?
Come here little one
Ah! Yahh
My she's fluffy
FREEZE
LIFT
Eek!
UGH, WHAT AN UGLY, STUPID DOG!
I wonder if she got lost
HECK IF I KNOW!
WHAT COULD SHE HAVE BEEN DOING SO DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS?
HURRY UP AND THROW HER OUT SOMEWHERE!
GLARE
Pant Pant
STARE STARE
"Eek"?
RETREAT
Gah! She got drool all over me! Stupid dog!
WHINE
WHINE
WHINE

SINCE I DON'T LIKE 'EM, I'LL NEVER...
K-CLICK
NEVER, NEVER, NEVER TAKE CARE OF A DOG!!
ENOUGH! JUST PUT HER OUTSIDE ALREADY!
WHAAAT?
No really your stupid thy is one of your stronger traits
SHUT UP!
FOR ALWAYS BEING CALLED STUPID YOURSELF, YOU SURE DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM CALLING OTHERS THAT...
Wanna hear more that?
PUSH
IF SHE'S LUCKY, A WOLF'LL PICK HER UP!
ANYWAY...
PLEASE THAT'S-
THROW HER OUT? A POOR PUPPY LIKE HER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MOUNTAINS?
She'll grow fangs and claws soon enough!
IT'LL BE FINE! SHE'LL GO FERAL IN NO TIME!
.....?
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT KID...?
SLAM
ばたん!!
EMOTIONALLY CHALLENGED ...?
That hurt
Hmph!!
AN EMOTIONALLY CHALLENGED PERSON LIKE YOU CAN OWN AS MANY DOGS AS YOU LIKE!
HE'S RIGHT ON THE MARK, THOUGH...
?
DON'T LAUGH!
HA HA HA HA
Get her away from me!
SHE'S NOT THE LEAST BIT CUTE! IT'S JUST...!
WAH!
SHE'S ...
WHY? SHE'S SO ADORABLE.
Just look at her round little belly!
NERVOUS
I CAN'T HELP IT. I HATE HER.
DOGS ARE SUCH STUPID ANIMALS!
THADUMP THADUMP
AFTER ALL THE SCARY THINGS YOU'VE SEEN.
I'D NEVER HAVE EXPECTED YOU TO BE AFRAID OF DOGS.
That's not it!
My stomach's dying
Now that's what I call a laugh
WAVE WAVE
NO! IT'S NOT THAT I'M AFRAID OF HER! I JUST HATE DOGS!

HMPH!
I HATE DOGS ...
THAT STUPID OOG..
SHE JUST WOULDN'T QUIT BITING ME.
SWEEP
SWEEP
SWEEP
UGH, I HATE THEM. I HATE DOGS!
HMM.
YOU'RE HUNGRY, AREN'T YOU?
LICK LICK LICK
WHINE WHINE
IN THAT CASE...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, LITTLE GIRL?
LICK
LICK
LICK
...I'LL GET YOU SOMETHING TO EAT.
CLATTER
Little mongrels strutting around showing their butts to the world
CUTE!? DOGS AREN'T CUTE, THEY'RE HELPLESS AND STUPID AND PATHETIC...
DAMMIT!
I'M NOT JOKING WITH HIM ABOUT THAT OOG!
ARF
ARF
ARF
NOT TO MENTION MY CLOTHING...
I'm the one who has to make it
This little...!
がぶり
CLOMP
WHY DOESN'T HE DO SOMETHING!?
IF THAT STUPID FLUFF BALL STAYS ARDUND, I'LL WIND UP COVERED IN TOOTH-MARKS.
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
She's got pretty big mouth for a little

Eek!
That's my bed!
Don't let it keep it's smell from me!
Get it off her!
Yes, yes.
Heh heh heh
ARF ARF ARF ARF
WHINE WHINE
ARF ARF ARF ARF
You're supposed to be working!
You agree!
ARF ARF ARF ARF!!
NOTHING ...
OH, REALLY?
ARF ARF ARF!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TAKI?
ISN'T IT NICE TO BE LOVED?
Get her off me!
I'm so jealous
CHOMP
WHAT'S NICE ABOUT THIS!?
ARF
キャン


WHY?

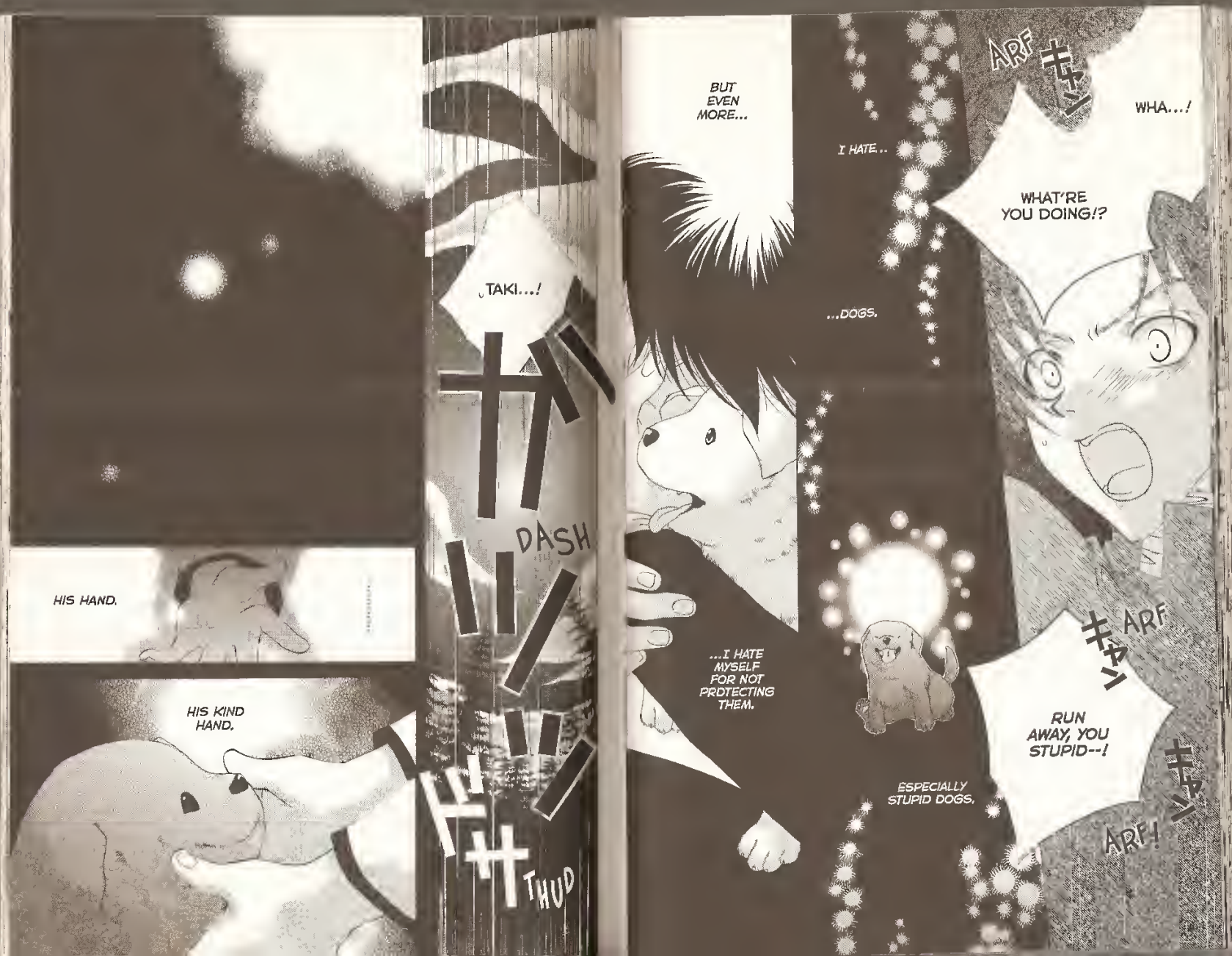
I TOLD YOU...
DIDN'T I...?
LICK LICK LICK
WHY DO YOU HATE DOGS SO MUCH?
NO, HER TEETH ARE!
MY SHE'S COMPLETELY ATTACHED TO YOU.
I BELIEVE SHE'S JUST PLAYING—
SHUT UP!!
Jerk
TURN
I HATE DOGS... BECAUSE THEY'RE STUPID!
AH, I SEE. HATE FOR ONE'S OWN KIND, IS IT?
LIFT
LUNGE

OH, DON'T WORRY. SHE'LL BE FINE!
THE RESURRECTED PREFER THE TASTE OF LIVING HUMANS.
YOU KNOW...
...IT'S DANGEROUS OUT HERE, WHAT WITH THE ZOMBIES AND ALL...
Living ← but
A dog
Living human →
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO BRING THAT STUPID DOG HERE?
I DIDN'T BRING HER. SHE FOLLOWED YOU.
See?
COME NOW! PAY CLOSE ATTENTION THIS TIME!
Huh
I...I SEE...
So it's just me
OH, SHUT UP ALREADY!
My tail
I'm a decoy?
ARF
ARF
ARF
ARF!
Oh, is that it? I'm glad I hear it!
Made for each other
ARF
ARF
Yes, what is it?
Hahaha! She's so amusing
Bow!
Mmph!
WHY DO I HATE THEM?
Slow down!
Its
CHEW
CHEW
Nng!
Not just... need some milk?
RUMMAGE
LISTEN.
SENSEI?
YES?

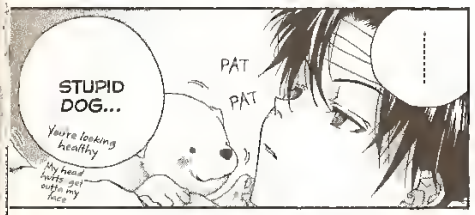
SO, TAKI.
THIS IS JUST MY THEORY, BUT...
ARF!!
...THEY STILL CARRY THE MEMORIES FROM THE LIVES THEY LIVED.
THEY SAY THE RESURRECTED ARE DEMONS INHABITING DEAD BODIES..
...AND THOUGH THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT HUMAN ANYMORE...
!!
ARF
ARF
ARF
ARF

WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN IF WE LET THEM BE?
HUH?
ABOUT THE RESURRECTED...
OH...
...TAKI?
LET ME THINK...
BUT THEY DON'T JUST SLAUGHTER BLINDLY.
I KNOW THEY'RE DANGEROUS, BUT...
RIGHT.
LET'S HAVE A LITTLE LESSON.
ARF
ARF
FIRST, THEY GO...
...TO THE PEOPLE THEY KNEW IN LIFE.
FAMILY, LOVERS, FRIENDS...THE CLOSER THEY WERE, THE MORE LIKELY.
It's another story if someone gets in their way first tho...
IN ESSENCE, THEY TRY TO KILL THE PEOPLE THEY LOVED.
...OR STEAL THEIR SOULS.
THEN THEY TAKE THE LIVES OF THOSE PEOPLE. THEY DRINK THEIR BLOOD...

...DON'T UNDER-STANO?
SLIP
...YOU REALLY...
...AS FOR WHY THAT DOG IS SO ATTACHED TO YOU...
ARF!!
OOGS...
DASH
OH, NO!
AH-!
THUD
MOVE IT, YOU IDIOT!
CLANG
YOU-!
YOU LITTLE-!
DASH
UH-OH.
I'VE GOTTA GET THE DAMN DOG...
SORRY!
You were right in the middle of telling me it's mother...
ARF
SWIPE
Shut up!!
CHOMP
Don't bite me!
...MY THEORY, BUT...
Shut up and get away from here!
THIS IS JUST...
Argh!

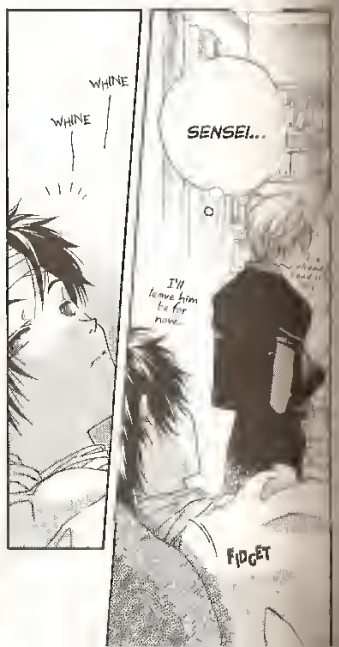

HIS HAND.
HIS KIND HAND.
TAKI...!
DASH
THUD
BUT EVEN MORE...
I HATE..
...DOGS.
...I HATE MYSELF FOR NOT PROTECTING THEM.
ESPECIALLY STUPID DOGS.
ARF
キャン
WHA...!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING!?
キャン
ARF
RUN AWAY, YOU STUPID--!
キャン
ARF!

THUD
I WAS DREAMING.
CLATTER
FLAP
SIGH...


STUPID DOG...
You're looking healthy
My head hurts get outta my face
PAT
PAT

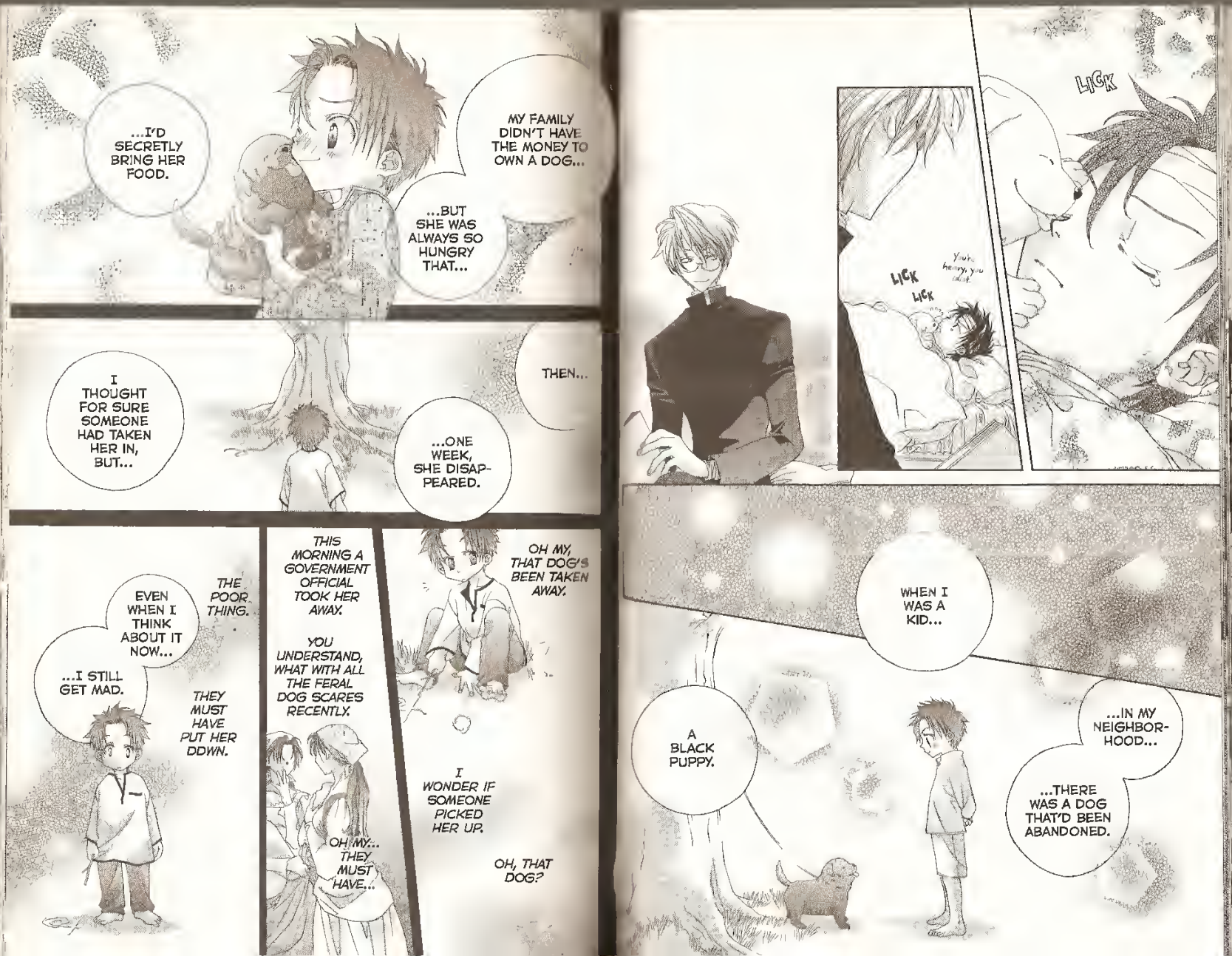
You're not listening are you?
LICK

LICK
LICK
LICK


WHINE
WHINE
SENSEI...
I'll leave him to it for now...
FIDGET

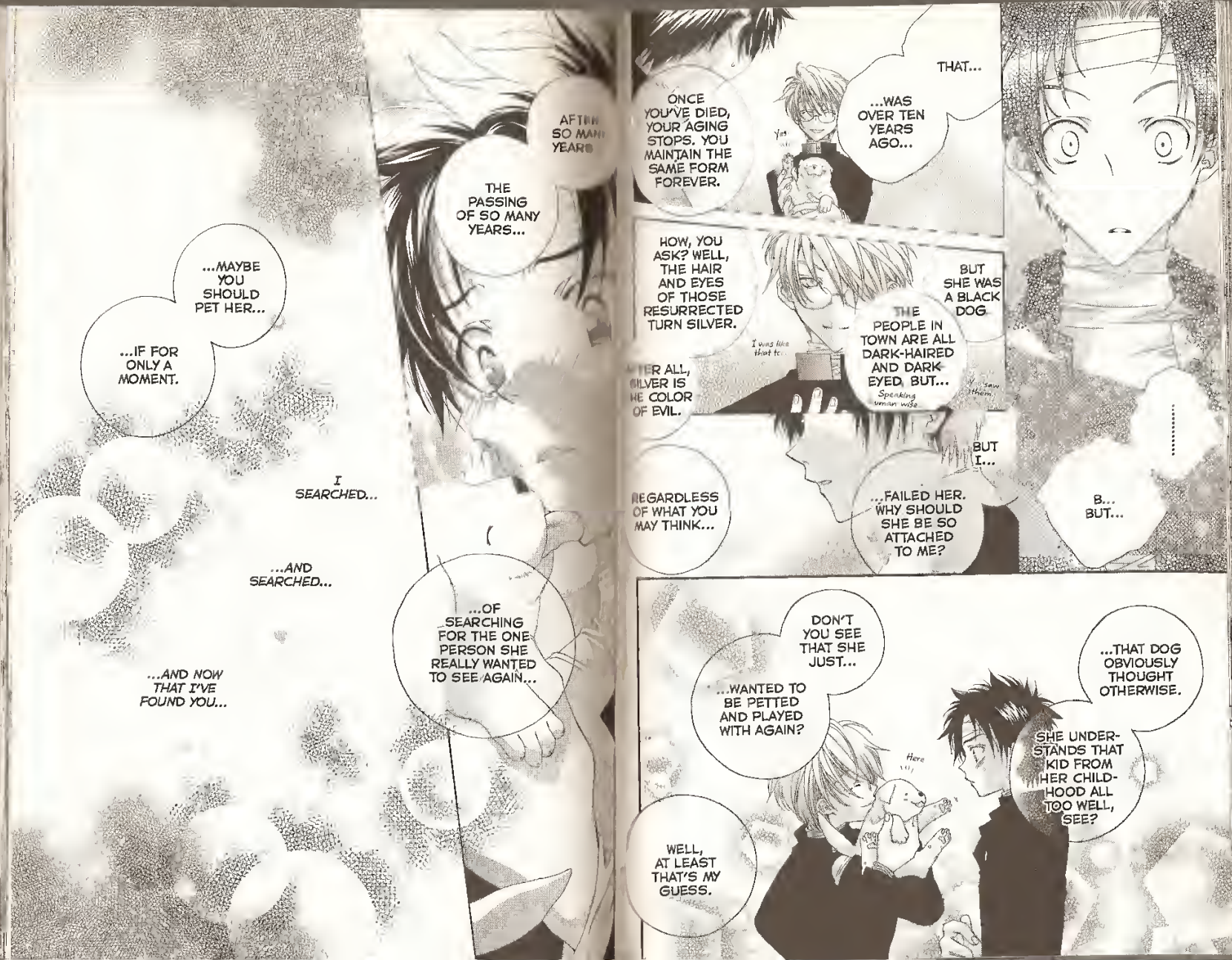
I REMEMBER IT.
THE PERSON WITH THE KIND HAND.

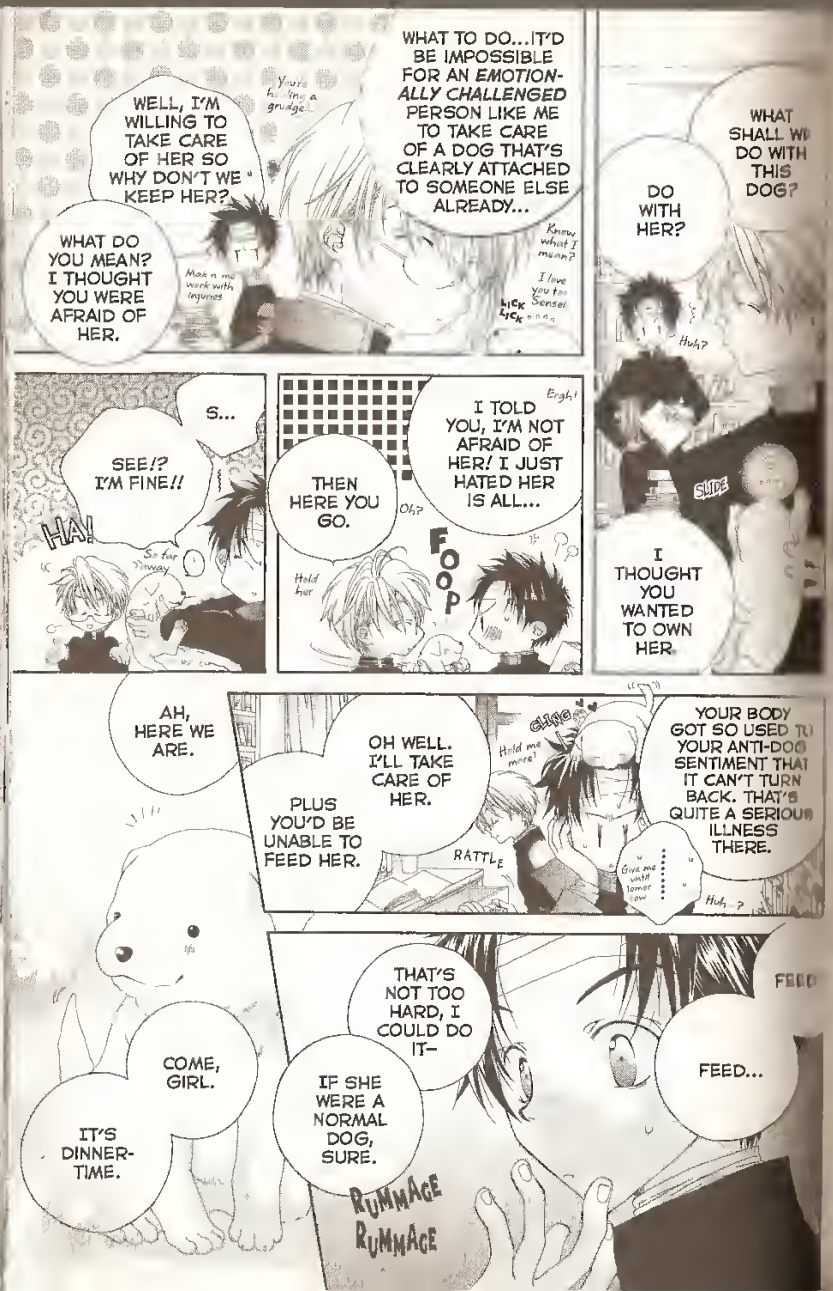
IT'S THAT STUPID DOG?


...I'D SECRETLY BRING HER FOOD.
MY FAMILY DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY TO OWN A DOG...
...BUT SHE WAS ALWAYS SO HUNGRY THAT...
I THOUGHT FOR SURE SOMEONE HAD TAKEN HER IN, BUT...
THEN...
...ONE WEEK, SHE DISAPPEARED.
EVEN WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT NOW...
...I STILL GET MAD.
THE POOR THING.
THEY MUST HAVE PUT HER DOWN.
THIS MORNING A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL TOOK HER AWAY.
YOU UNDERSTAND, WHAT WITH ALL THE FERAL DOG SCARES RECENTLY.
OH MY... THEY MUST HAVE...
OH MY, THAT DOG'S BEEN TAKEN AWAY.
I WONDER IF SOMEONE PICKED HER UP.
OH, THAT DOG?
LICK
LICK
LICK
WHEN I WAS A KID...
A BLACK PUPPY.
...IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD...
...THERE WAS A DOG THAT'D BEEN ABANDONED.

...I CAN NEVER PET ANOTHER DOG.
LISTEN TO ME...
...TAKI.
AT THE PERSON WHO ABAN-DONED THAT DOG...
AT THE OFFICIAL WHO TOOK HER AWAY...
...AND AT THE DOG, TOO, FOR BEING TAKEN AWAY.
...THINKING SHE'D FOUNO A NEW FRIEND.
THE OOG PROBABLY WENT WILLINGLY TO HER OEATH.
FOR NOT UNOERSTANDING...
WITHOUT ANY OOUBT AT ALL...
I COULDN'T ...
...SAVE HER.
EVEN THOUGH I WANTED TO,
AND THAT'S WHY...
...THE ONE I'M REALLY ANGRY AT...
...MORE THAN THE PEOPLE, OR EVEN THE OOG...
...IS MYSELF.
DOGS ARE STUPID.
SO... I HATE THEM.
BUT...

IT'S NOT THAT THEY WANT TO KILL THE ONES THEY KNEW IN LIFE...
IT IS BECAUSE THEY HAVE A BASE DESIRE TO BECOME ONE WITH THOSE THEY LOVE.
IT'S THEIR WAY OF SHOWING THAT LOVE.
That's quite warped, wouldn't you say?
Oh, it seems I have a new scarf
BUT...
...IF WE LOST OUR BASIC INSTINCTS, WE'D HAVE NOTHING.
THE RESURRECTED ARE THE SAME WAY.
LISTEN, TAKI.
TO THEM, A KISS AND A BITE ARE THE SAME THING.
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM BEING SIMPLE PLAY.
DON'T YOU THINK THE DOG BITES YOU...
...FOR THE VERY SAME REASON?
...WHEN YOU SAW THAT, JUST LIKE ME AND THE RESURRECTED...
...THIS DOG'S EYES ARE ALSO SILVER?
TAKI.
WHAT DID YOU THINK...
WHAT?
A KISS.
You don't know?
DO I HAVE TO SHOW YOU?
RETREAT
Heh heh heh
I'm kidding
DO YOU KNOW WHAT A KISS IS?
"...I COULD EAT YOU UP."
IT'S A WAY OF SAYING...
..."I LIKE YOU SO MUCH..."
SCARY, DON'T YOU THINK?
...SO IT SEEMS TO BE A BASIC INSTINCT THAT RESURFACES.
IT'S ONE OF THE MORE PRIMITIVE URGES IN HUMAN BEINGS...
HEH


...MAYBE YOU SHOULD PET HER...
...IF FOR ONLY A MOMENT.
THE PASSING OF SO MANY YEARS...
I SEARCHED...
...AND SEARCHED...
...OF SEARCHING FOR THE ONE PERSON SHE REALLY WANTED TO SEE AGAIN...
...AND NOW THAT I'VE FOUND YOU...
ONCE YOU'VE DIED, YOUR AGING STOPS. YOU MAINTAIN THE SAME FORM FOREVER.
THAT...
...WAS OVER TEN YEARS AGO...
HOW, YOU ASK? WELL, THE HAIR AND EYES OF THOSE RESURRECTED TURN SILVER.
THE PEOPLE IN TOWN ARE ALL DARK-HAIRED AND DARK EYED. BUT...
BUT SHE WAS A BLACK DOG
REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU MAY THINK...
...FAILED HER. WHY SHOULD SHE BE SO ATTACHED TO ME?
BUT I...
B... BUT...
DON'T YOU SEE THAT SHE JUST...
...WANTED TO BE PETTED AND PLAYED WITH AGAIN?
...THAT DOG OBVIOUSLY THOUGHT OTHERWISE.
SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT KID FROM HER CHILDHOOD ALL TOO WELL, SEE?
WELL, AT LEAST THAT'S MY GUESS.


WELL, I'M WILLING TO TAKE CARE OF HER SO WHY DON'T WE KEEP HER?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I THOUGHT YOU WERE AFRAID OF HER.
WHAT TO DO...IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR AN EMOTIONALLY CHALLENGED PERSON LIKE ME TO TAKE CARE OF A DOG THAT'S CLEARLY ATTACHED TO SOMEONE ELSE ALREADY...
You're holding a grudge...
Make it me work with injuries
Know what I mean?
I love you too Sensei
LICK LICK
S...
SEE!? I'M FINE!!
HA!
So far away
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT AFRAID OF HER! I JUST HATED HER IS ALL...
Ergh!
THEN HERE YOU GO.
Oh,?
FOOP
Hold her
WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THIS DOG?
DO WITH HER?
Huh?
SLIDE
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO OWN HER.
AH, HERE WE ARE.
OH WELL. I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER.
PLUS YOU'D BE UNABLE TO FEED HER.
Give
Hold me more!
RATTLE
YOUR BODY GOT SO USED TO YOUR ANTI-DOG SENTIMENT THAT IT CAN'T TURN BACK. THAT'S QUITE A SERIOUS ILLNESS THERE.
Give me until tomorrow
Huh,?
COME, GIRL.
IT'S DINNER-TIME.
THAT'S NOT TOO HARD, I COULD DO IT–
IF SHE WERE A NORMAL DOG, SURE.
RUMMAGE RUMMAGE
FEED
FEED...

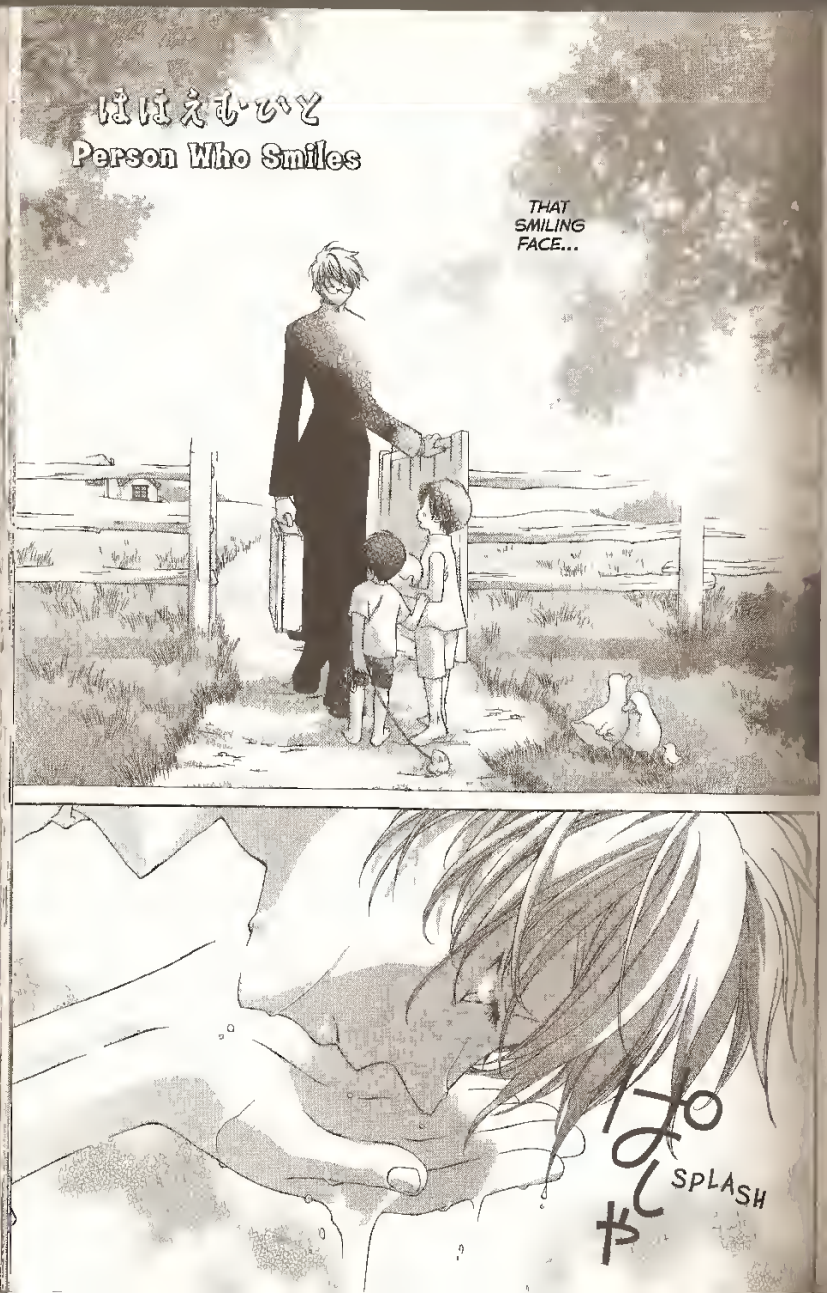
...PET ME ONCE MORE, PLEASE.
WITH THAT HAND.
NOW THEN...

WHY WOULDN'T IT BE GOOD?
YOU THINK... THIS IS REALLY SUCH A GOOD IDEA?
Ethically speaking
IT LOOKS LIKE THIS DOG WON'T BITE ANYONE BESIDES YOU.
BUT ANYWAY...

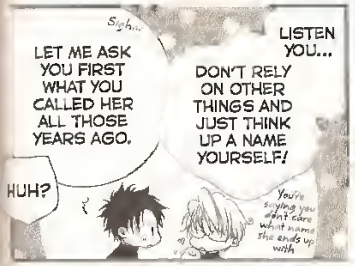
WE HAVE TO THINK UP A NAME FOR HER.

PERSON WITH A KIND HAND END

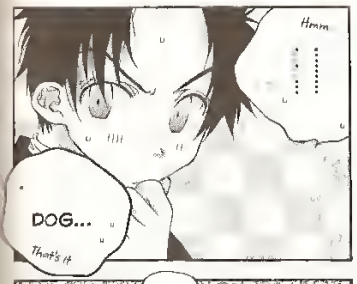
YOU...



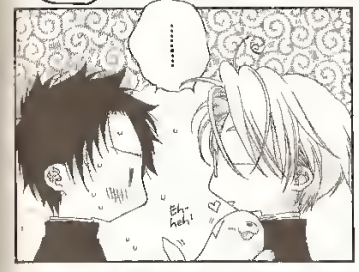
Let's Give Her a Name 2


Sigh...
LET ME ASK YOU FIRST WHAT YOU CALLED HER ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.
HUH?
LISTEN YOU...
DON'T RELY ON OTHER THINGS AND JUST THINK UP A NAME YOURSELF!
You're saying you don't care what name she ends up with

Subject tuition process with Chibi as an example
Chibi ← Stupid Chibi ← Stupid
YES...
IT'S NO USE, IS IT...LET'S TAKE THE TIME TO SUBSTITUTE THAT WITH A MORE PROPER NAME.
Thinking
CHOMP CHOMP
I'm sorry.

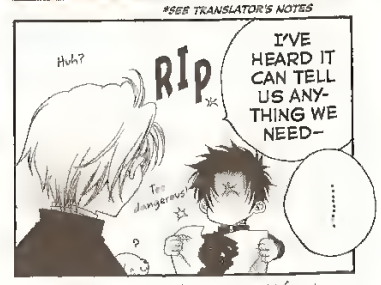


SOMETHING THAT COULD BE QUITE USEFUL FOR US.
WHAT'S THIS?
LET'S FIRST DECIDE WHAT NAME WE WANT.
It's an appendix but
Atree-kun satisfied
Since it can be such a pain here we go!
Meanie!



#SEE TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

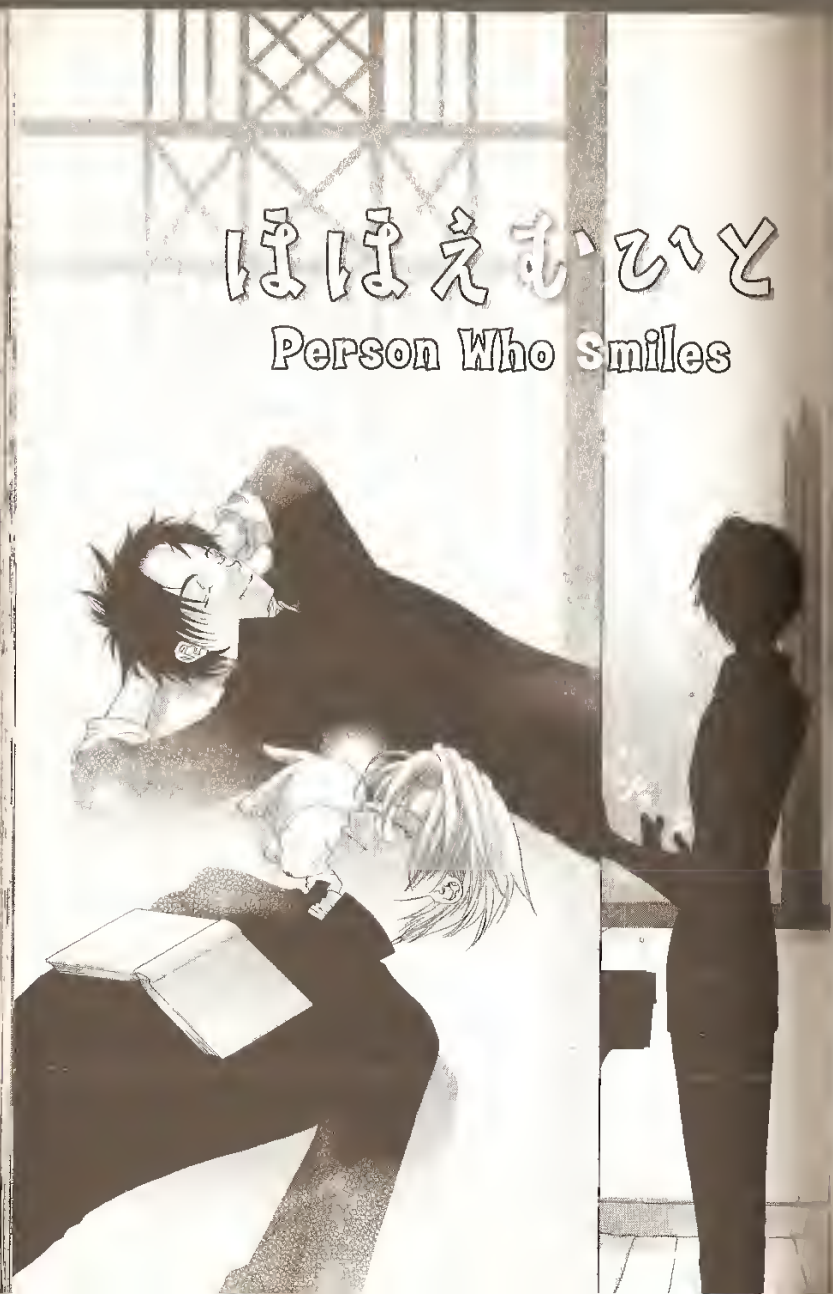
Sigh...
GUESS SO...
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO RELY ON SOMETHING AFTER ALL.
Huh...? the first girl's name in the dictionary is "Aga"...eh?
Work work
LICK LICK LICK

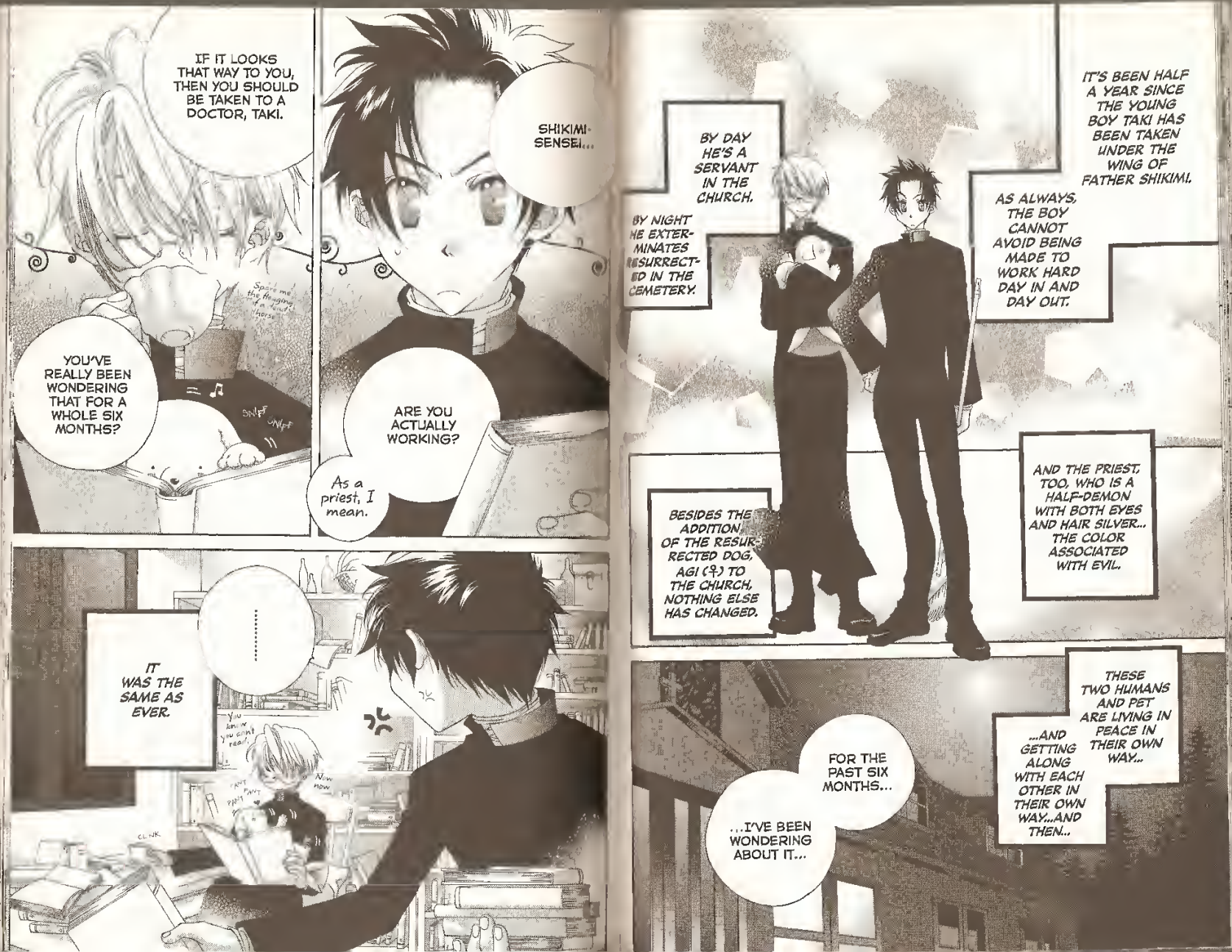


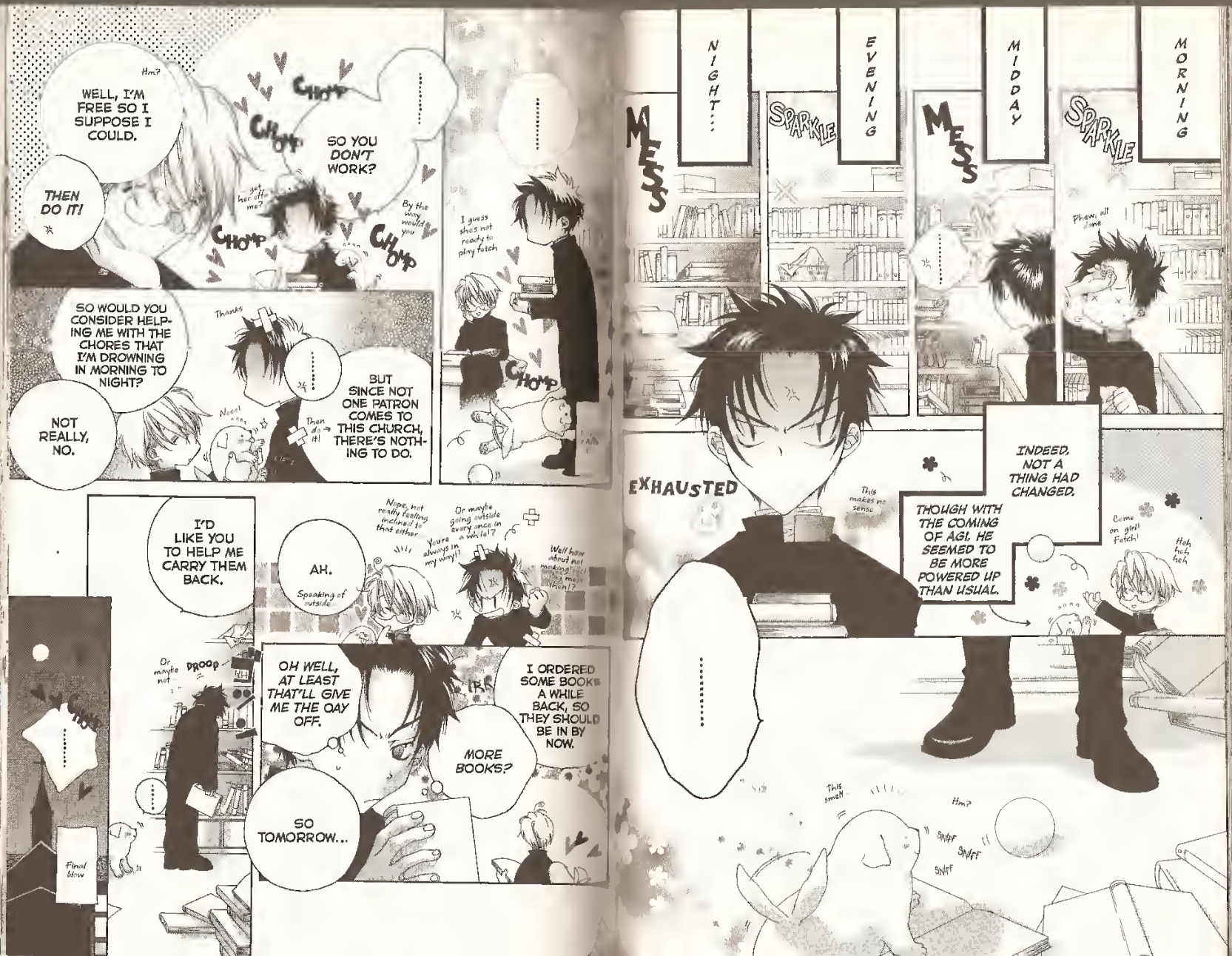
He sure knows a lot for not even being able to read the characters

ほほえむひと

Person Who Smiles




IF IT LOOKS THAT WAY TO YOU, THEN YOU SHOULD BE TAKEN TO A DOCTOR, TAKI.
Spare me the ringing of a cell phone.
SNIFF SNIFF
YOU'VE REALLY BEEN WONDERING THAT FOR A WHOLE SIX MONTHS?
SHIKIMI-SENSEI...
ARE YOU ACTUALLY WORKING?
As a priest, I mean.
IT WAS THE SAME AS EVER.
You know you can't read!
Now now
PANT PANT PANT
CLINK
BY DAY HE'S A SERVANT IN THE CHURCH.
BY NIGHT HE EXTERMINATES RESURRECTED IN THE CEMETERY.
IT'S BEEN HALF A YEAR SINCE THE YOUNG BOY TAKI HAS BEEN TAKEN UNDER THE WING OF FATHER SHIKIMI.
AS ALWAYS, THE BOY CANNOT AVOID BEING MADE TO WORK HARD DAY IN AND DAY OUT.
BESIDES THE ADDITION OF THE RESURRECTED DOG, AGI (♀) TO THE CHURCH, NOTHING ELSE HAS CHANGED.
AND THE PRIEST, TOO, WHO IS A HALF-DEMON WITH BOTH EYES AND HAIR SILVER... THE COLOR ASSOCIATED WITH EVIL.
FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS...
...I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT IT...
...AND GETTING ALONG WITH EACH OTHER IN THEIR OWN WAY...AND THEN...
THESE TWO HUMANS AND PET ARE LIVING IN PEACE IN THEIR OWN WAY...


MORNING
MIDDAY
EVENING
NIGHT...
SPARKLE
MESS
SPARKLE
MESS
Phew, all done
INDEED, NOT A THING HAD CHANGED.
THOUGH WITH THE COMING OF AGI, HE SEEMED TO BE MORE POWERED UP THAN USUAL.
EXHAUSTED
This makes no sense
Come on, girl! Fetch!
Heh heh heh
Hm?
This smell
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
I guess she's not ready to play fetch
CHOMP
By the way, would you
Hm?
WELL, I'M FREE SO I SUPPOSE I COULD.
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
SO YOU DON'T WORK?
THEN DO IT!
Get her off me!
SO WOULD YOU CONSIDER HELPING ME WITH THE CHORES THAT I'M DROWNING IN MORNING TO NIGHT?
Thanks
Then do it!
BUT SINCE NOT ONE PATRON COMES TO THIS CHURCH, THERE'S NOTHING TO DO.
NOT REALLY, NO.
Need
I'D LIKE YOU TO HELP ME CARRY THEM BACK.
AH.
Speaking of outside
Nope, not really feeling inclined to that either
Or maybe going outside every once in a while?
You're always in my way!!
Well how about not making me do it, then!?
Or, maybe not
DROOP
OH WELL, AT LEAST THAT'LL GIVE ME THE DAY OFF.
I ORDERED SOME BOOKS A WHILE BACK, SO THEY SHOULD BE IN BY NOW.
MORE BOOKS?
SO TOMORROW...
Final blow

SCURRY
SCURRY
OH, IS THAT SO?
RIGHT?
Never goes into the kitchen
MURMUR
MURMUR
PSST
STARE
STARE
WHISPER
WHISPER
TONS OF ATTENTION AS ALWAYS..
YOU SURE ARE POPULAR, SENSEI.
.....
MAKES IT EASY TO WEAVE THROUGH THE CROWD.
THE NEXT DAY
BY THE WAY.
AREN'T WE A LITTLE LOW ON SUGAR, TOO?
AH.
TEA...
BEANS, DRIED MEAT...
CHEESE, BUTTER...
FLOUR...
LET'S SEE, THEN...

YOU'RE STILL HUMAN NOW.
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T GIVE UP, I'LL BE ON YOUR SIDE.
YOU KNOW TAKI... ACTU ALLY..
...THERE'S ANOTHER REASON–
EVEN SO...
Aw I couldn't even ask for that little bit?
SENSEI, THIS HERE! BUY THIS FOR ME!
TA–
AH!!
FREEZE
LET'S SEE...
IT'LL HAVE TO BE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR SALARY.
CHEAP-SKATE.
Ta da
I DON'T LIKE IT.
They're suspicious...
THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOR.
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM HERE.
Sigh
I SWEAR...
It's all ridiculous to me
BUT THAT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
NO, IT IS.
THE JOB OF "HUNTING" IS LOATHED NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO.
AND ON TOP OF THAT, I'M EN ROUTE TO BECOMING A DEMON.
Thank you
WE CAN'T CHANGE IT.
You could say "you reap what you sow."
IT IS MY FAULT.

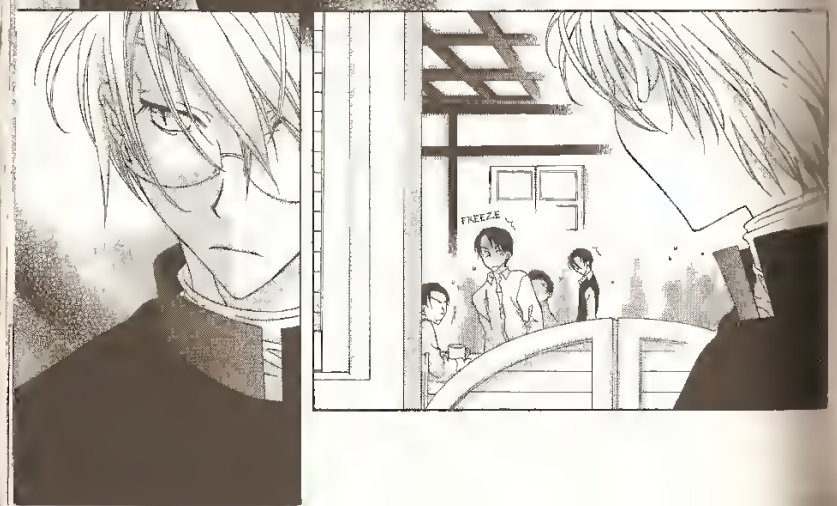
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE EATEN OUT.
I COULD GO FOR ANYTHING AT THIS POINT.
CREAK
THIS SEAT OPEN?
GO AHEAD.
SO CAN I GET SOME-THING TO EAT HERE?
HERE YOU GO...
WE HAVE A LUNCH SET.
THAT SOUNDS GOOD.
THANK YOU!

OH...
BY THE WAY, I'M PRETTY HUNGRY.
LET'S GET SOMETHING TO EAT, SENSEI.
He bought it
It was worth the deduc-tion
I'M ALL RIGHT.
YOU SURE?
WHILE YOU'RE EATING, I'LL FINISH UP THESE LAST ERRANDS.
WE'VE COVERED ALL THE BASIC NECESSI-TIES.
LAST IS THE BOOKS... AND A LITTLE BUSINESS AT THE PUBLIC OFFICE.
WELL THEN, I'LL BE IN THAT SHOP.
WHEN YOU'RE DONE, COME AND GET ME.
SEE YOU LATER.
.....

...
...BUT...
...IT WAS AN ANNIHILA-TION.
-DERER...
WHSPR
WHSPR
WHSPR
...SILVER-HAIRED...
...DEMON.
"YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW."
WHAT
"-DERER"?
THERE'S ANOTHER REASON...
ANNIHILA-TION...?
YEAH.
That's me
WHSPR
WHSPR
YOU'RE THE YOUNG MAN FROM THE CHURCH IN THE NORTHERN MOUNTAINS, RIGHT?
YES?
I've only had a bite of my food
I WON'T SAY ANYTHING BAD, BUT YOU'D BETTER GO HOME RIGHT NOW.
"Boy"? I'm no boy. I'm 18 years old
HEY...
BOY.
PSST
LEA
GASP
MURMUR
YOU OUGHTA BE MORE CAREFUL.
GRUMBLE
AH!
S... SORRY...
Safe!
WATCH IT, OLD MAN!
DROP
WHOA!
BUT LOOK... THAT...
Wait
...FROM... -DERER PRIEST'S PLA...
Whisper
STARE
STARE
STARE
YOWZA...
WHSPR
SO I'M POPULAR NOW, TOO?
I give up
That they're quite loud about it.
WELL, WHATEVER.
JUST IGNORE THEM, JUST IGNORE THEM...
MUTTER
MUTTER
WHISPER
WHISPER

GO BACK HOME TO THE MOUNTAINS WITH THAT MURDERER OF A PRIEST.
WHAT!?
Hey, I take baths regularly!!
THE LONGER YOU STAY HERE, THE MORE TROUBLE YOU'LL CAUSE.
HURRY UP AND FINISH YOUR FOOD.
HMM...
I WONDER IF I'M STILL A LITTLE TOO EARLY.
OR MAYBE...
IF HE'S STILL HAVING HIS MEAL, I SHOULD KILL SOME TIME.
THAT MAN IS NO DEMON.
Not yet
HE'S A REGULAR HUMAN!
Or half of him is
AS FOR WHY YOU ASSUME SO MUCH JUST BECAUSE HIS HAIR AND EYE COLOR CHANGED, I DON'T KNOW.
YEAH, THANKS. I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN.
IDIOT, I'M SAYING THIS BECAUSE I'M REALLY CONCERNED FOR YOU.
I can't let good food go to waste. I've been poor long enough to know
CHEW CHEW
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, YOU SEEM LIKE A NORMAL HUMAN...
YOU'RE WRONG.
HUH?
SO WHY ARE YOU STAYING WITH A DEMON LIKE HIM?
I'M SURE THERE ARE OTHER PLACES–
CHEW
HEY, OLD MAN.
...THE TRUTH BEHIND THAT PRIEST IS THAT–
IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE, THE STENCH OF THE DEAD'LL STICK TO YOU.
DON'T GIVE ME THAT "WHAT"!
LIKE WHAT?
SURE HIS SILVER HAIR AND EYES ARE SCARY ENOUGH BUT...
AND HIS JOB MAY BE DETESTABLE, BUT IT'S ALL FOR YOUR GUYS' SAKE SO–
YOU...
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU?

TAKI?


FREEZE

BUMP
...I'LL GO ON AHEAD...
...BY MYSELF.
Whoa there...
TAKI?
OOF!

YOU SURPRISED ME. SO IT WAS YOU?
THAT WAS FAST. YOU ALREADY FINISHED YOUR MEAL?
.....

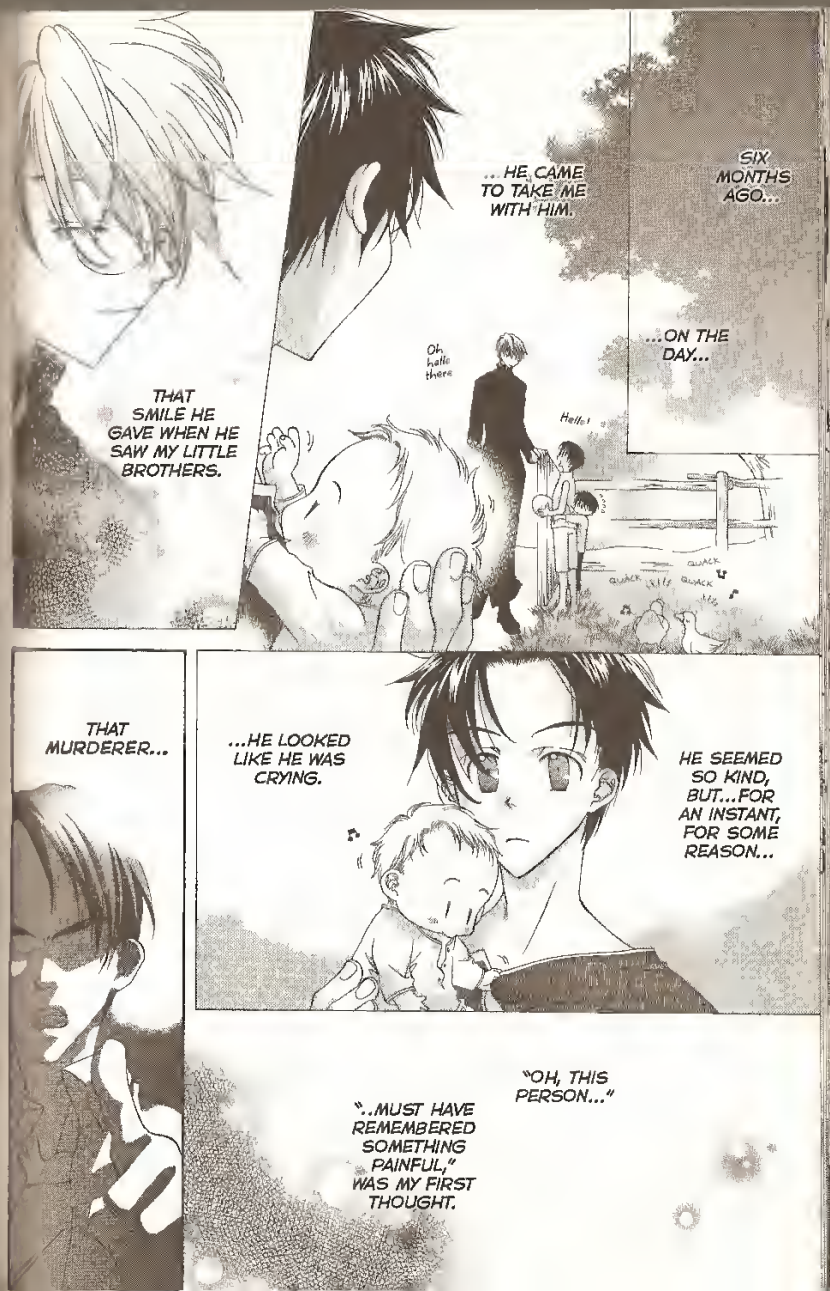
WHY DO YOU STAY QUIET?
BECAUSE YOU DON'T CARE? OR BECAUSE...
...IT'S A NATURAL RESPONSE ON THEIR PART?
WHY?
...HATE IT?
DON'T YOU.
ALL THIS TROUBLE THEY GIVE YOU?
BECAUSE IT'S YOUR FAULT?
AFTER ALL, I DON'T KNOW ANY BETTER.
I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING IN RESPONSE...
...EVEN IF THAT'S WHAT IT IS...I DON'T LIKE IT.
...TO THE WORD "MURDERER."
...BUT...
I DON'T... ... UNDERSTAND ...

DID YOU...
...HEAR SOMETHING? TAKI?
TAKI?
DID... ...SOMETHING HAPPEN, TAKI?
.....
.....——

AFTER ALL...
WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT ME.
IT'S OKAY.
...SINCE IT'S PROBABLY TRUE. BUT...
Hey! Listen to people when they're talking!!
I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY SAY...
SEN ...!
I'M OKAY NOW THAT I HAVE SOMEONE WHO'S ON MY SIDE.
AFTER ALL...
YOU...
YOU MAY BE FINE WITH IT, BUT I...
...EVEN IF IT'S TRUE...
...I DON'T CARE. I KNOW HIM...
...ABSOLUTELY...
...HATE IT.
...AS HE IS NOW.
I BELIEVE...
HAVING TO LISTEN TO THEM TALK LIKE THAT ABOUT SOMEONE THEY DON'T KNOW NOW...
...PISSES ME OFF TO NO END.
I DON'T KNOW THE OLD YOU.
ALL I KNOW IS YOU AS YOU ARE NOW.
SO ALL THIS TALK AND BEHAVIOR OF THEIRS...
I DON'T LIKE IT.
I'M NOT SAYING I DON'T...
...HAVE ANY DOUBTS AT ALL.
BUT...

LET'S GO.
TO OUR...
...HOME.
RIGHT?
...IS THE SAME ONE I SAW THEN.
THAT SMILE...
I REMEMBER THAT.
I HAVE...
...A DUNCE LIKE THAT WITH ME...
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE NEVER ASKED ABOUT IT...
...YOU TELL ME YOU'LL HAVE FAITH IN ME. ME, A HALF-DEMON.
EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING...
...AND SO...
...I REALLY AM FINE WITH IT.

EVEN IF THAT'S TRUE...
...THE MAN I KNOW NOW IS SENSEI.
THE SENSEI THAT SMILES IN THAT WAY OF HIS... THIS MAN HERE.
I'M FINE WITH WHATEVER HAPPENED IN HIS PAST.
I BELIEVE WHAT I SEE.
?!
DROOP
I BELIEVE...
...IN THIS PERSON BESIDE ME.
WE'RE HOME.


THAT SMILE HE GAVE WHEN HE SAW MY LITTLE BROTHERS.
...HE CAME TO TAKE ME WITH HIM.
SIX MONTHS AGO...
...ON THE DAY...
Oh, hello there
Hello!
QUACK
QUACK
QUACK
THAT MURDERER...
...HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS CRYING.
HE SEEMED SO KIND, BUT...FOR AN INSTANT, FOR SOME REASON...
"OH, THIS PERSON..."
"...MUST HAVE REMEMBERED SOMETHING PAINFUL," WAS MY FIRST THOUGHT.

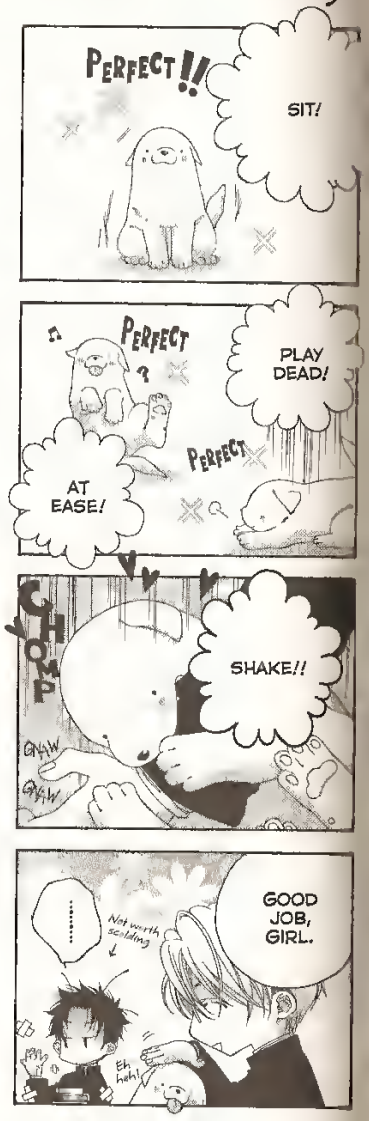
LICK
LICK LICK
W--WAIT, AGI...
CALM DOWN...
I...
UWAH...
I'M NOT AFRAID OF THAT MUTT!
Hm? LICK
SOME-HOW...
SO HE CAN STILL SMILE LIKE THAT?
YES?
NUZZLE
NUZZLE
NUZZLE
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
Where'd you go when you left Agi alone? Huh, where'd you go? Where'd you go!?
WHA-!
PHEW! THAT WAS HEAVY.
I THOUGHT MY ARMS WOULD FALL OFF. DON'T ORDER SO MANY BOOKS NEXT TIME!
WHUMP
TMP
TMP
NEXT TIME I'LL GO GET THE ORDER BY MYSELF, SO-
The others were impulse buys
ACTUALLY, I ONLY ORDERED THREE OF THOSE.
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
AAAAH...
LICK
LICK
LICK
LICK LICK
LICK
LICK LICK
LICK
LICK LICK
WAG
WAG
Sensei!!
I was so lonely! So lonely! So very lonely!
A... AGI...
Okay?
I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH...
PLUCK

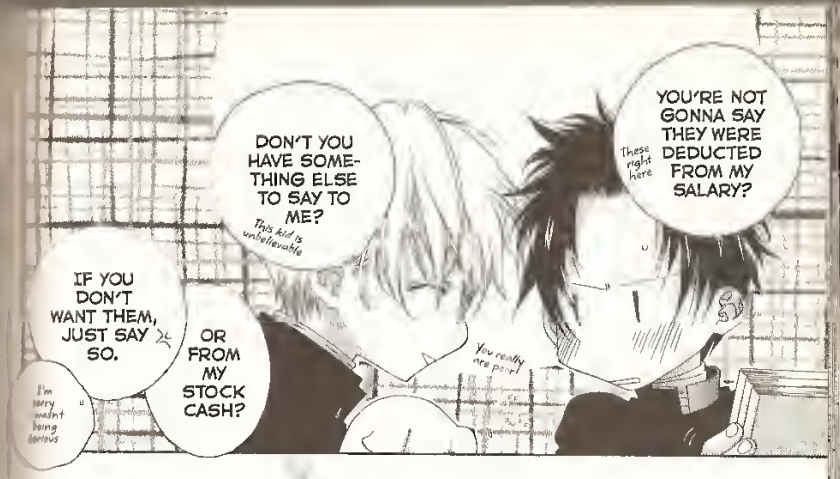
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO LEARN, RIGHT?
very interesting
Oh, these look...
SNIFF SNIFF SNIFF
THEY'RE BOOKS ON READING AND WRITING.
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER ONES? WHERE SHOULD I PUT THEM?
What are they?
YOUR ROOM.
HUH?
WHAT IS IT?
THESE BOOKS.
Ack, they're not tied together now!
Yes sir
PLEASE TAKE ALL THE BOOKS BUT THE TOP THREE TO MY ROOM.
Um
AAAH... DE... DEDU...
'DEDU'?

THEN HE'LL BE FINE.
I WAS WORRIED YOU'D LOST IT.
NUZZLE NUZZLE NUZZLE NUZZLE
LOST WHAT?
OH, NOTHING...
NOW THEN, I'LL GET DINNER READY.
OH.
ONE MORE THING, TAKI...
.....?
YEAH?
WAG WAG WAG

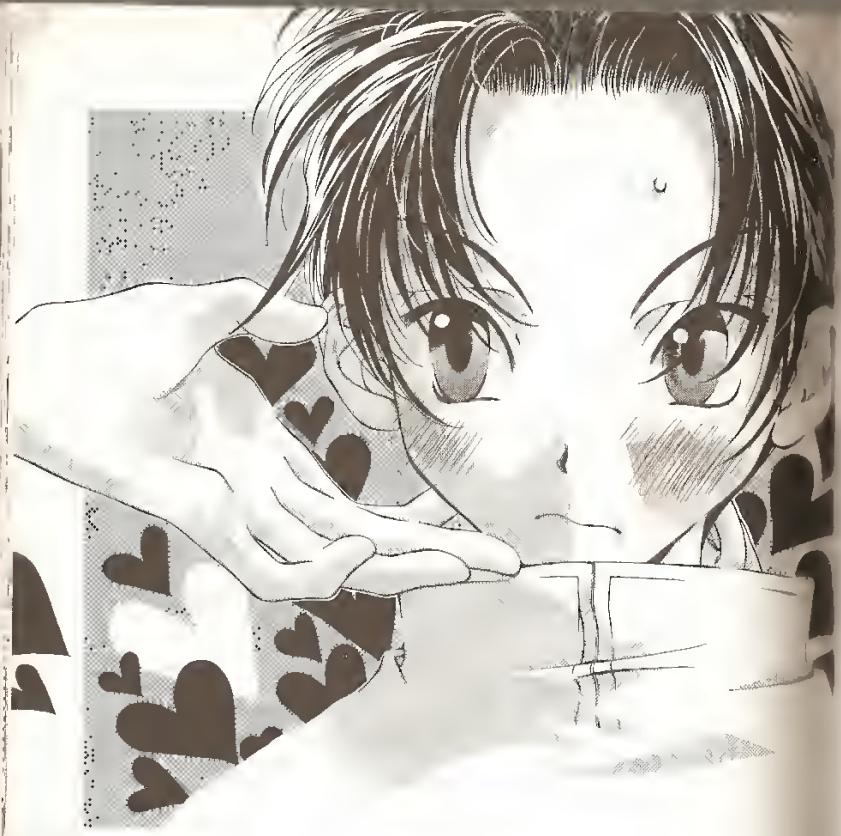
Let's Hold Her

Let's Do Some Training




DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TO SAY TO ME?
This kid is unbelievable
YOU'RE NOT GONNA SAY THEY WERE DEDUCTED FROM MY SALARY?
These right here
IF YOU DON'T WANT THEM, JUST SAY SO.
I'm sorry, wasn't being serious
OR FROM MY STOCK CASH?
You really are poor!

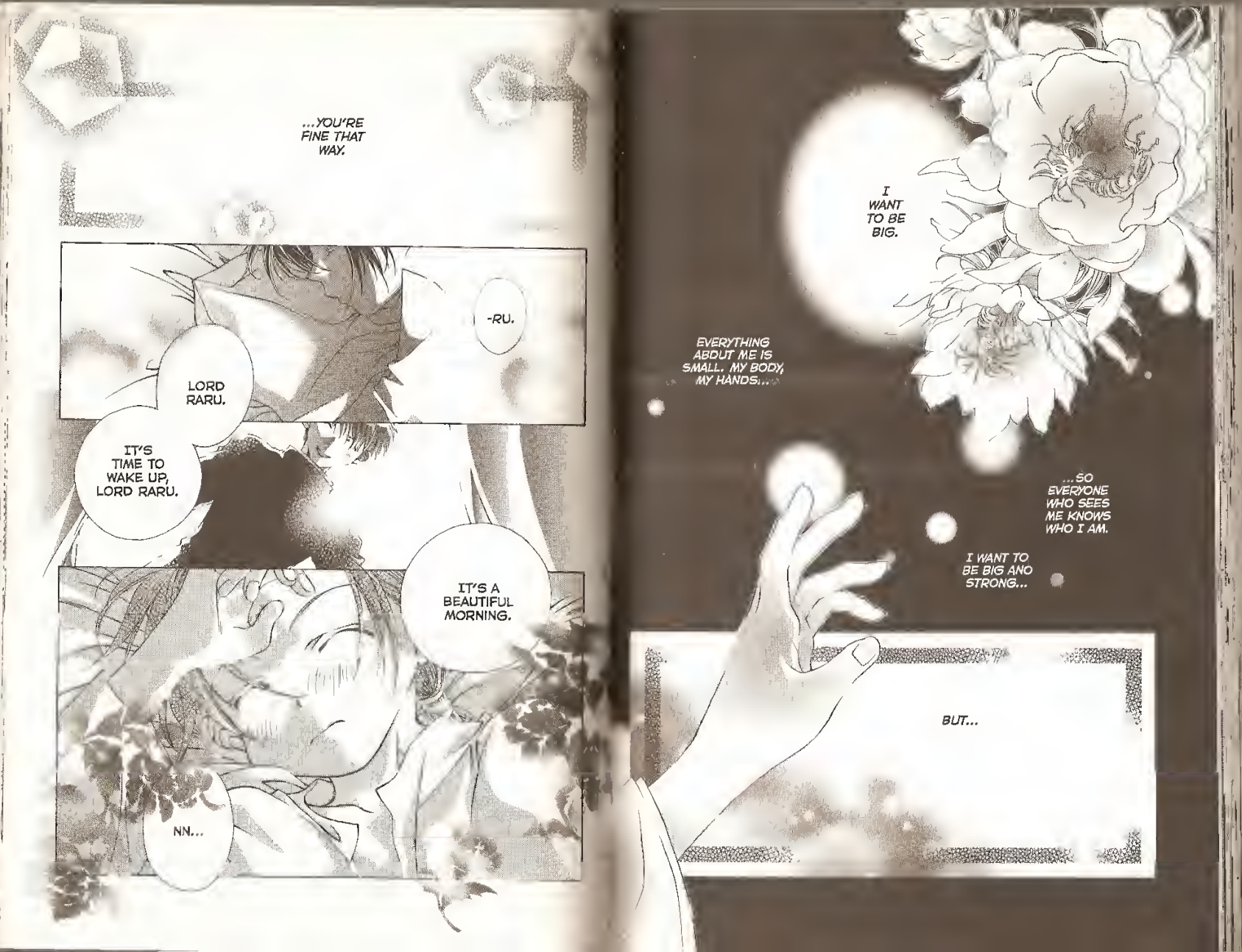
PERSON WHO SMILES✝END

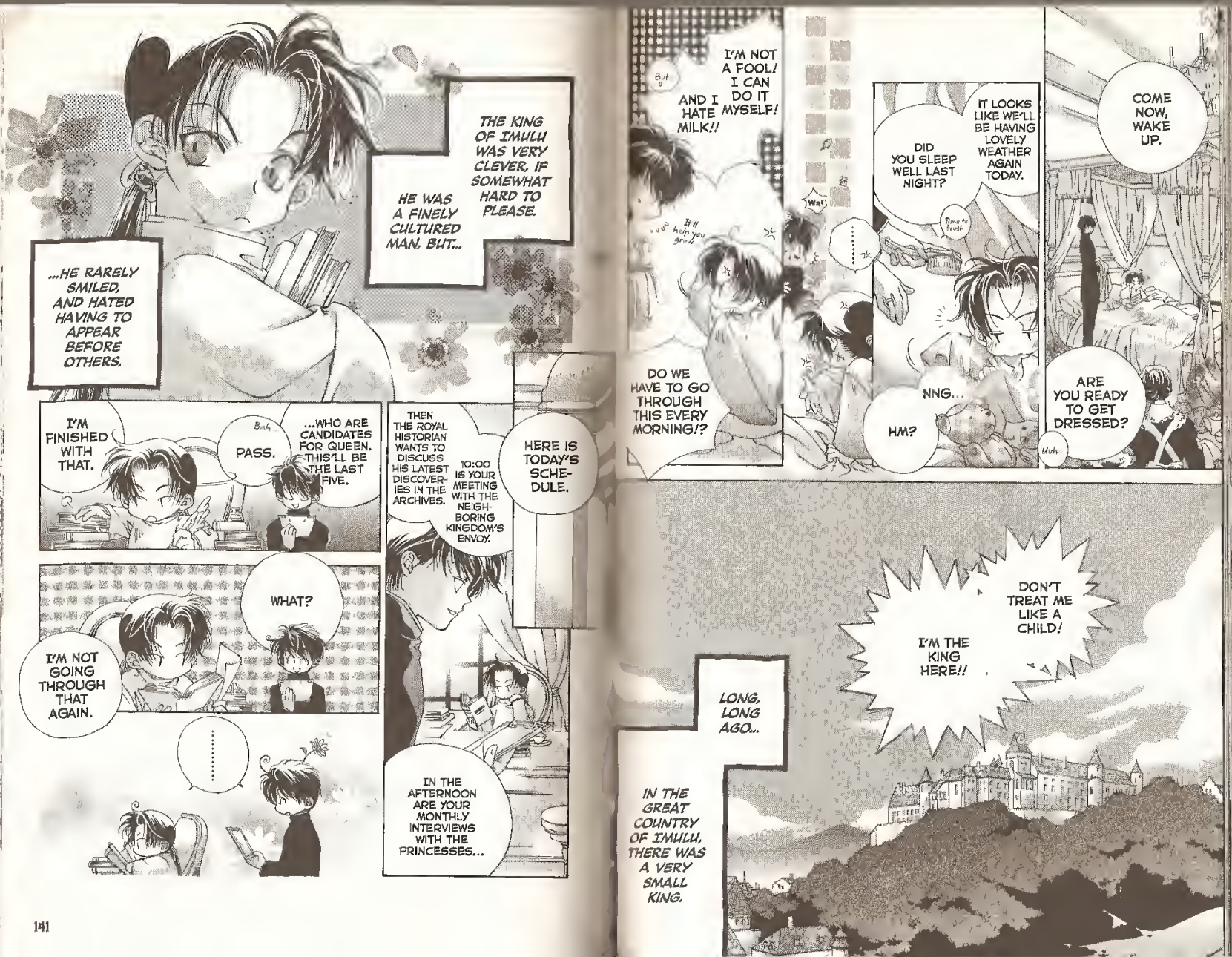


魔法のことば

Magic Words

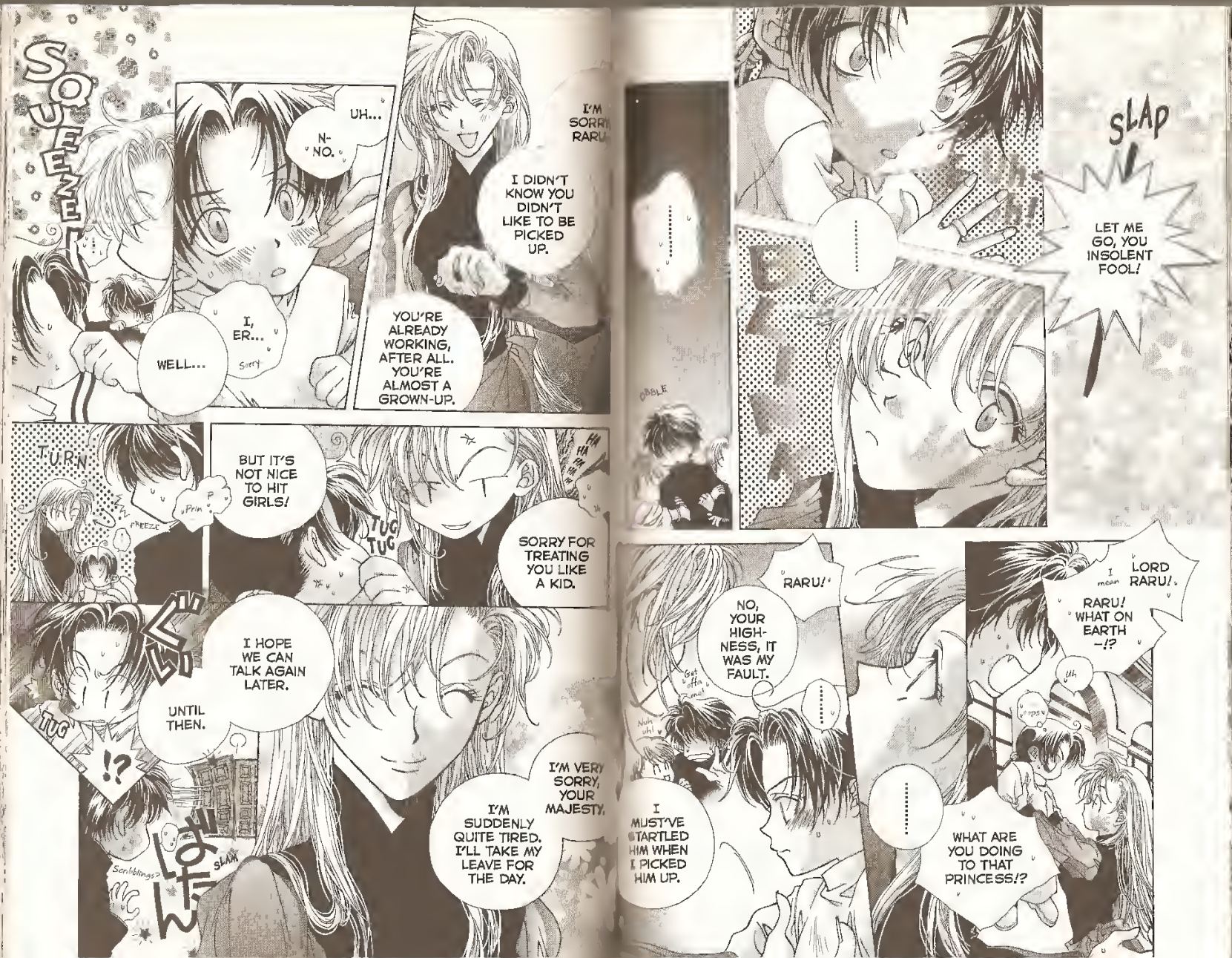
BLACK SUN SILVER MOON


...YOU'RE FINE THAT WAY.
-RU.
LORD RARU.
IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP, LORD RARU.
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL MORNING.
NN...
I WANT TO BE BIG.
EVERYTHING ABOUT ME IS SMALL. MY BODY, MY HANDS...
...SO EVERYONE WHO SEES ME KNOWS WHO I AM.
I WANT TO BE BIG AND STRONG...
BUT...

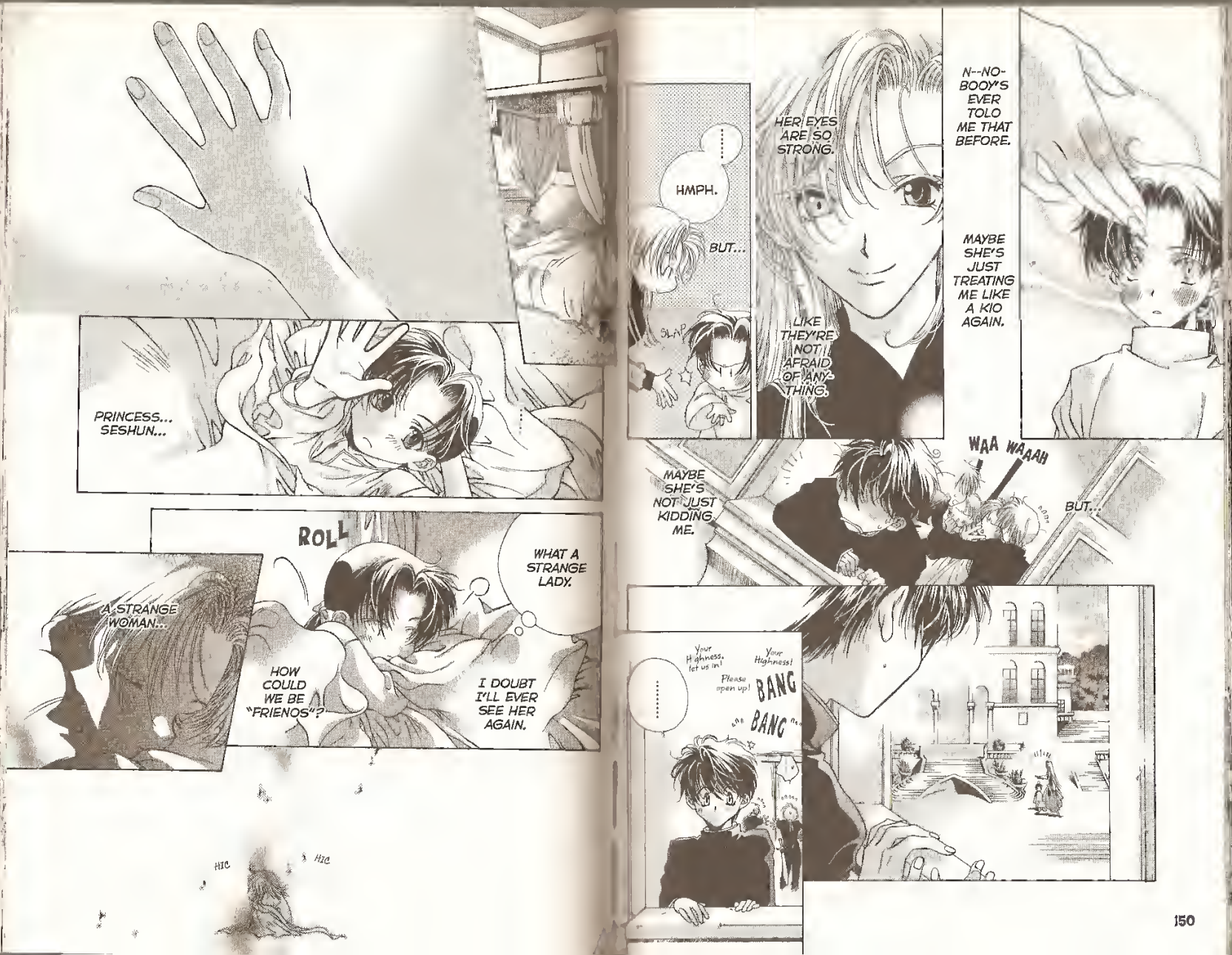

LONG, LONG AGO...
IN THE GREAT COUNTRY OF IMULU, THERE WAS A VERY SMALL KING.
I'M THE KING HERE!!
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A CHILD!
COME NOW, WAKE UP.
ARE YOU READY TO GET DRESSED?
Uuh
DID YOU SLEEP WELL LAST NIGHT?
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE HAVING LOVELY WEATHER AGAIN TODAY.
Time to brush
NNG...
HM?
Wa!
I'M NOT A FOOL! I CAN DO IT MYSELF!
But
AND I HATE MILK!!
It'll help you grow
DO WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS EVERY MORNING!?
HE WAS A FINELY CULTURED MAN, BUT...
THE KING OF IMULU WAS VERY CLEVER, IF SOMEWHAT HARD TO PLEASE.
...HE RARELY SMILED, AND HATED HAVING TO APPEAR BEFORE OTHERS.
I'M FINISHED WITH THAT.
But,
PASS.
...WHO ARE CANDIDATES FOR QUEEN. THIS'LL BE THE LAST FIVE.
THEN THE ROYAL HISTORIAN WANTS TO DISCUSS HIS LATEST DISCOVERIES IN THE ARCHIVES.
10:00 IS YOUR MEETING WITH THE NEIGHBORING KINGDOM'S ENVOY.
HERE IS TODAY'S SCHEDULE.
WHAT?
I'M NOT GOING THROUGH THAT AGAIN.
IN THE AFTERNOON ARE YOUR MONTHLY INTERVIEWS WITH THE PRINCESSES...

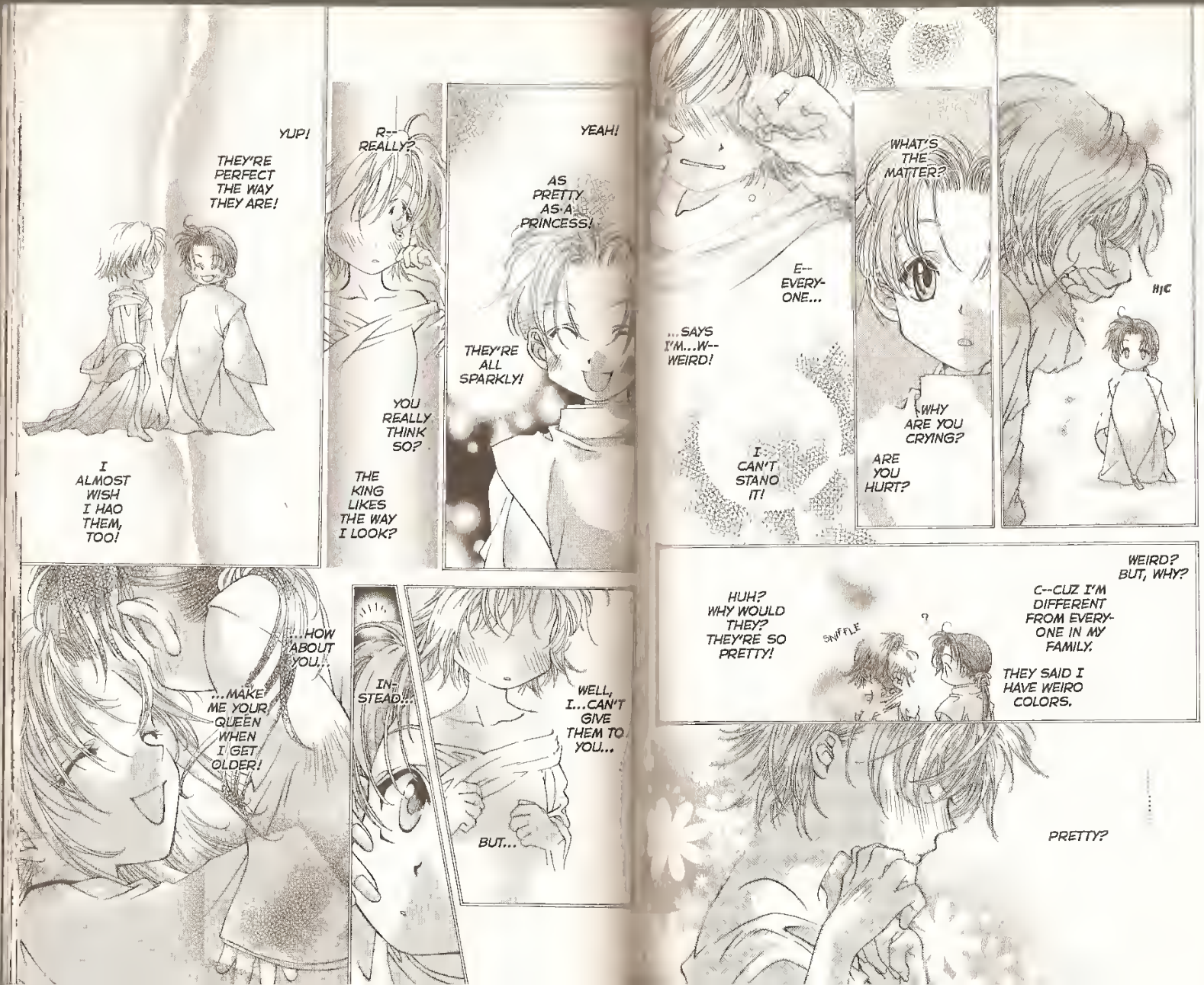
I GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR ENTHUSIASM, BUT...
...I'M AFRAID I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK.
UH...
(All at once)
キャー
ドドド!!
GLOMP
OH, DON'T BE SUCH A PARTY-POOPER!
PERHAPS ANOTHER DAY-
UM...
NO, COME OVER HERE!
SQUEAL
MAYBE WE SHOULD GO SOMEWHERE PRIVATE...
Uh! W-wait!
you can't go!
COME ON! THIS WAY!
DRAG
S-SOMEBODY!
Oh god! Oh god!
WAIT!
YOUR HIGHNESS!
WHAT IS IT YOU WISH?
LET ME DRESS YOU IN SILKS!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO LISTEN TO A BALLAD?
I CAN PLAY THE HARP.
YOUR MAJESTY!
OH, SIRE!
But...
YOU CAN'T DO THAT, MY LORD! WHAT WILL THE PRINCESSES THINK!?
WHY DOES IT MATTER? THEY'RE ALL THE SAME.
It's a waste of time
B-B-BUT... THAT WOULD BE TERRIBLY IMPOLITE!
Hmm.....
SO YOU'RE SAYING IT WOULD BE RUDE TO CANCEL THE MEETING?
GRIN
HUH?
WELL THEN, GOOD LUCK, ADELLE.
Y-YES! PRECISELY!
AND SO...
HERE IS THE PRINCESSES' DRESSING ROOM.

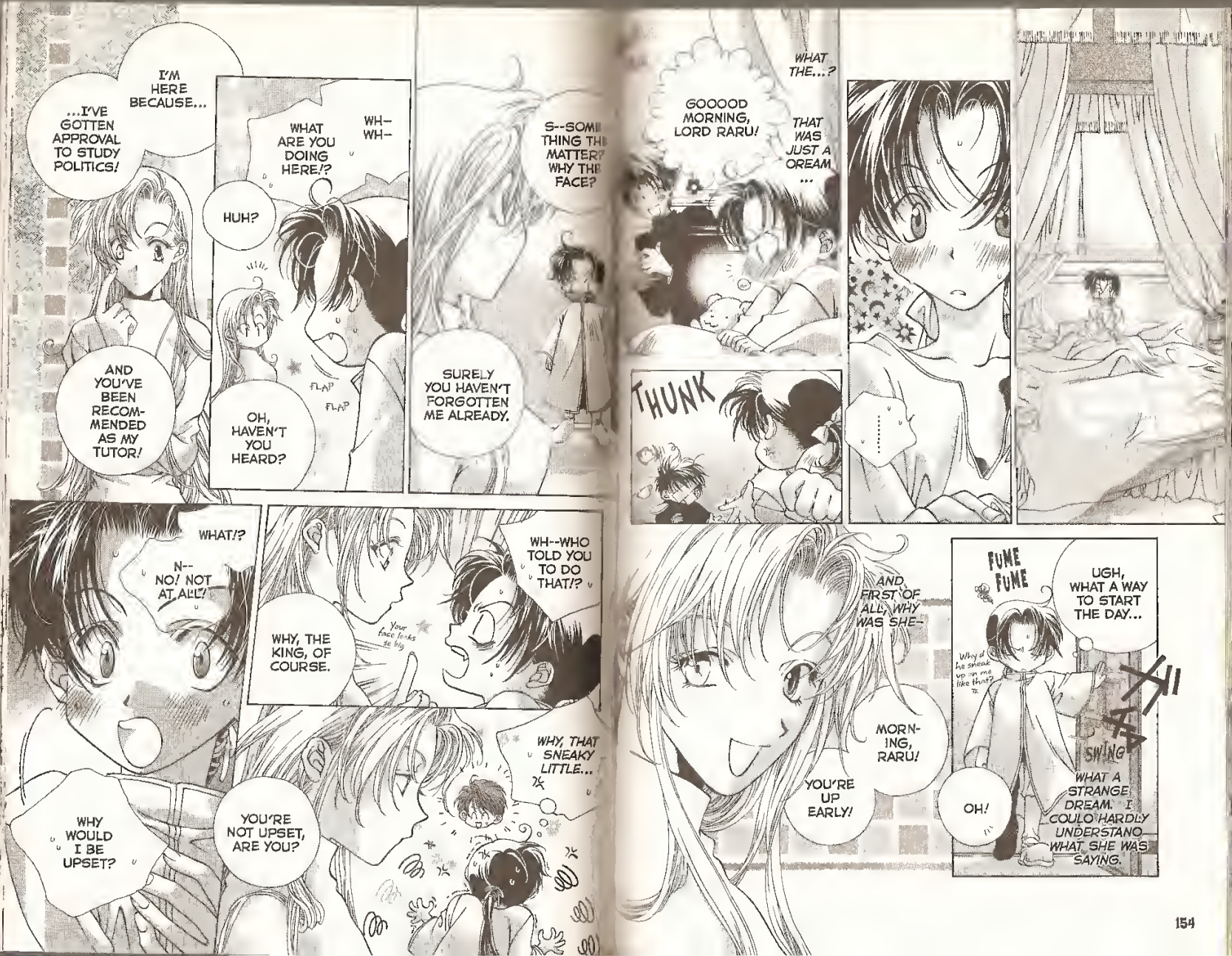
UH...
R... RARU.
OKAY, RARU.
Oops my real name
MY NAME IS SESHUN.
LAA D' SESHUN.
MAYBE SHE'S A – WHAT ARE THEY CALLED AGAIN? – OOO-EYE.
HOW RARE.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
HUH?
HER EYES ARE DIFFERENT COLORS...
Y
YEAH.
GRIN GRIN
HUH?
UH...
Plain lookin'
YOU'RE PRETTY YOUNG TO BE WORKING
L...
Hm ? ~
...WHY DON'T YOU GIVE ME A TOUR OF THE CASTLE?
SES-HUN?
YOU HAVE GREAT TIMING!
LEAN
OH, SHE'S A PRINCESS FROM LAA KINGDOM.
I WAS JUST STARTING TO GET BORED.
SO...
THAT'S WHY THEY FLIP WHEN THEY FIND OUT I'M THE REAL KING.
Well I better be going
What cute little boy!
I TOLD YOU THEY WERE ALL THE SAME.
THEY'RE ALL JUST AFTER THE THRONE.
Even look the same.
SHEESH...
I DETEST THAT TYPE.
Mutter
IT'S OBVIOUS THEY'RE ONLY AFTER THE CROWN.
Hmm
I KNEW IT.
But At least they're honest
Hmm
ARE YOU THE KING'S HELPER?
THAT CERTAINLY DIDN'T MEET MY EXPECTATIONS.
I'D HEARD HIS HIGHNESS WAS A SHREWD BUSINESSMAN.
What gives?
SHOCK
!
Oh, well
YOU'RE AN IMPRESSIVE LITTLE BOY.

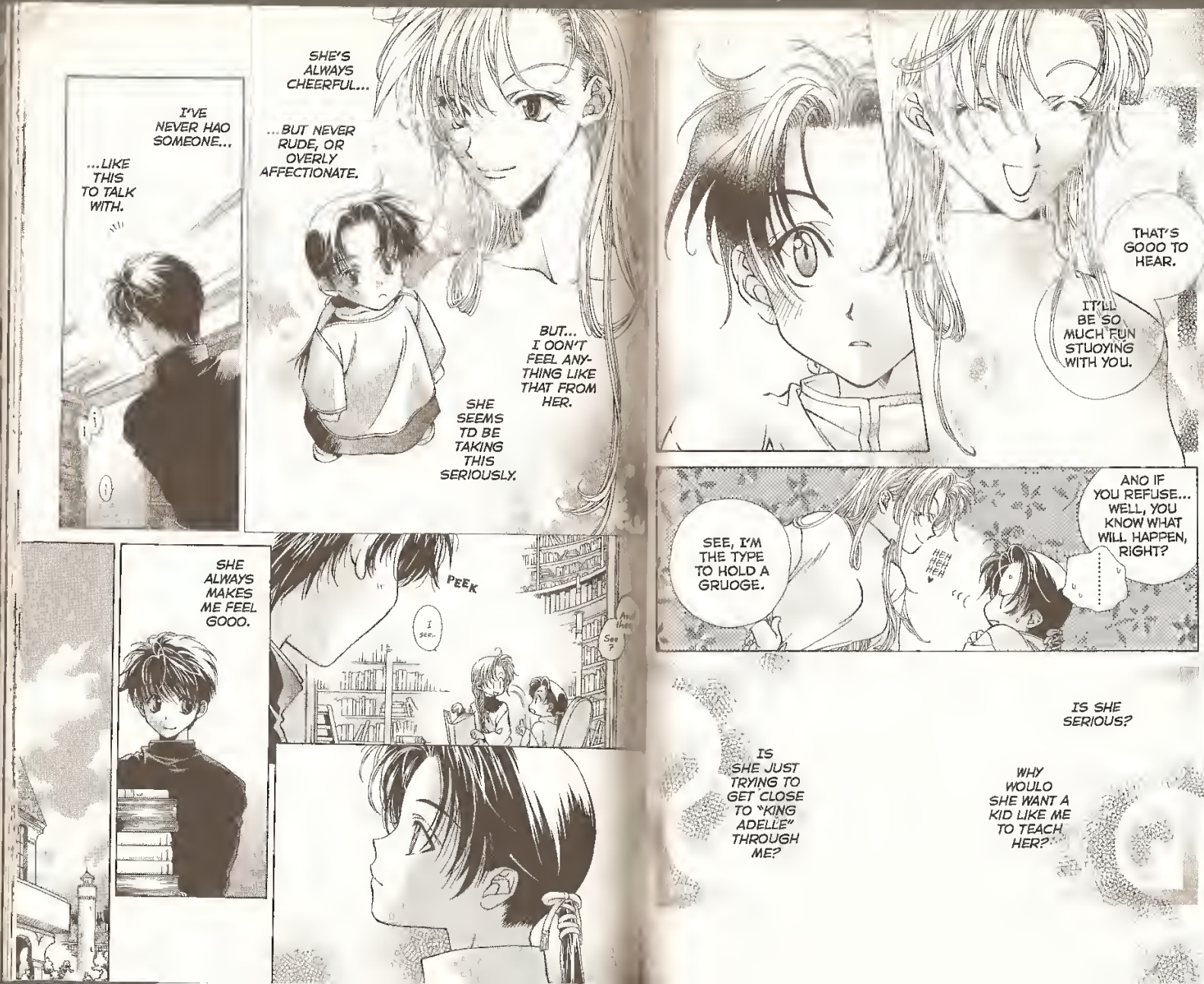

SQUEEZE
UH...
N-NO.
I'M SORRY RARU!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU DIDN'T LIKE TO BE PICKED UP.
YOU'RE ALREADY WORKING, AFTER ALL. YOU'RE ALMOST A GROWN-UP.
I, ER...
Sorry
WELL...
T.U.R.N.
FREEZE
Prin
BUT IT'S NOT NICE TO HIT GIRLS!
TUG TUG
SORRY FOR TREATING YOU LIKE A KID.
I HOPE WE CAN TALK AGAIN LATER.
UNTIL THEN.
TUG
!?
I'M SUDDENLY QUITE TIRED. I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE FOR THE DAY.
I'M VERY SORRY, YOUR MAJESTY.
Scribblings?
SLAM
BABBLE
SLAP
LET ME GO, YOU INSOLENT FOOL!
RARU!
NO, YOUR HIGH-NESS, IT WAS MY FAULT.
Get off me!
Nuh uh!
I MUST'VE STARTLED HIM WHEN I PICKED HIM UP.
I mean LORD RARU!
RARU! WHAT ON EARTH -!?
Uh
Oops
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THAT PRINCESS!?

I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
I'M SO SORRY! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
GRIT
Learn brat!
WHAT WAS THAT?
Excuse me?
Hmph!
FINE! I'M SORRY!
MUTTER
I SAID I'M SORRY.
ALL RIGHT, I THINK A HAND-SHAKE'S IN ORDER.
Silly
I PROMISE NOT TO PINCH.
REACH
PISSED
Must endure!
WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT?
OKAY
LET'S MAKE UP.
MOPE
UH... WHO WAS THAT?
PRINCESS SESHUN, FROM LAA KINGDOM.
SHE'S THE YOUNGEST PRINCESS OF A TINY KINGDOM.
Her crazy stunts are famous
LAA KINGDOM?
WH-WHAT GIVES!?
SMACK
OH, YEAH? WELL, WOMEN SHOULDN'T HIT!
Don't smack me!
LITTLE BOYS SHOULDN'T POUT!
SHUT UP!
WELL?
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
TO BE A GROWN-UP, YOU MUST ACT LIKE ONE. ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU'RE FORGETTING?


PRINCESS... SESHUN...
ROLL
A STRANGE WOMAN...
HOW COULD WE BE "FRIENOS"?
WHAT A STRANGE LADY.
I DOUBT I'LL EVER SEE HER AGAIN.
HIC
HIC
HMPH.
BUT...
SLAP
HER EYES ARE SO STRONG.
LIKE THEY'RE NOT AFRAID OF ANY-THING.
N--NO-BODY'S EVER TOLO ME THAT BEFORE.
MAYBE SHE'S JUST TREATING ME LIKE A KIO AGAIN.
MAYBE SHE'S NOT JUST KIDDING ME.
WAA
WAAAH
BUT...
Your Highness, let us in!
Your Highness!
Please open up!
BANG
BANG

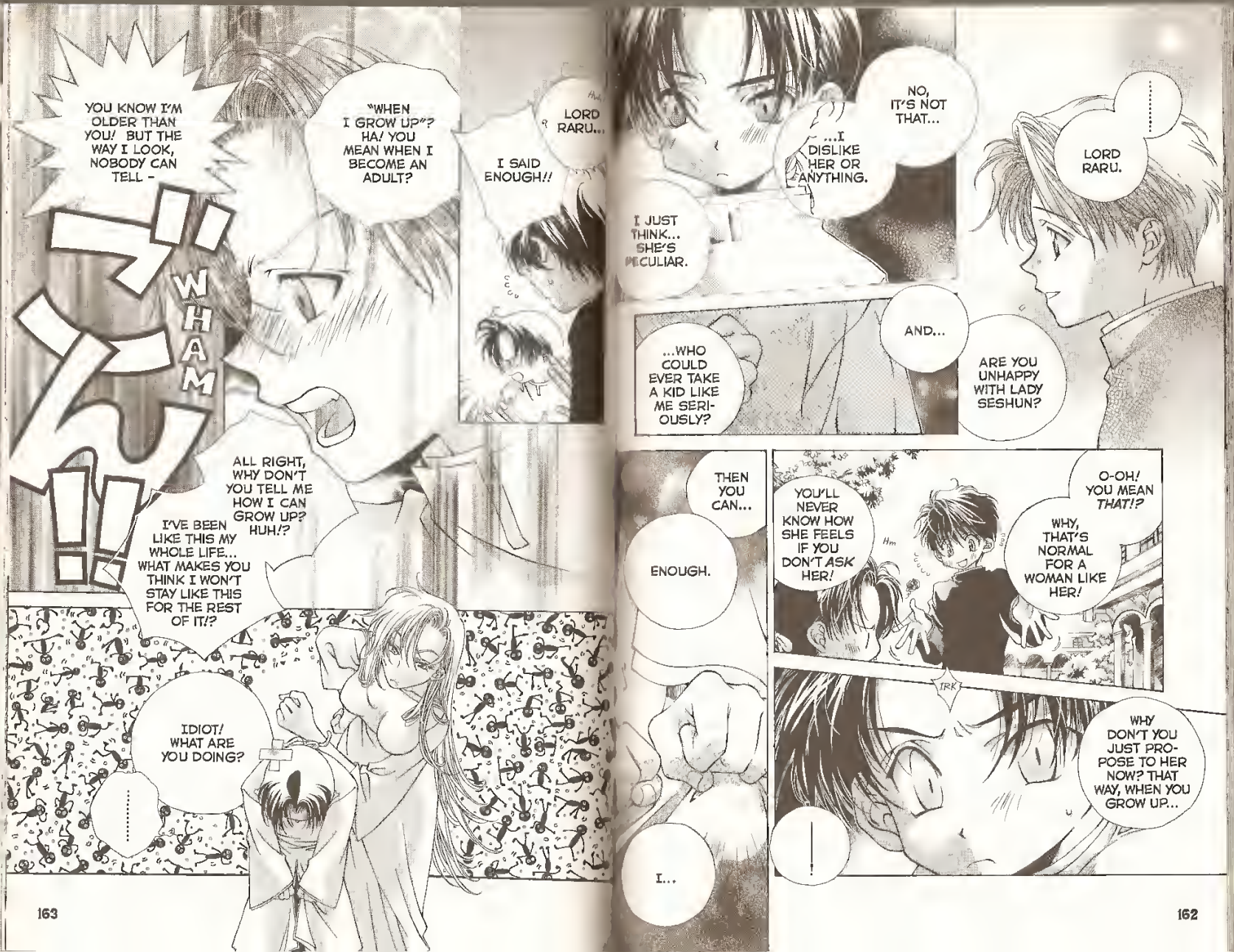

YUP!
THEY'RE PERFECT THE WAY THEY ARE!
I ALMOST WISH I HAD THEM, TOO!
R--REALLY?
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
THE KING LIKES THE WAY I LOOK?
YEAH!
AS PRETTY AS A PRINCESS!
THEY'RE ALL SPARKLY!
...HOW ABOUT YOU...
...MAKE ME YOUR QUEEN WHEN I GET OLDER!
IN-STEAD...
WELL, I...CAN'T GIVE THEM TO YOU...
BUT...
E--EVERY-ONE...
...SAYS I'M...W--WEIRD!
I--CAN'T STAND IT!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
ARE YOU HURT?
HIC
WEIRD? BUT, WHY?
C--CUZ I'M DIFFERENT FROM EVERY-ONE IN MY FAMILY.
THEY SAID I HAVE WEIRD COLORS.
SNIFFLE
HUH? WHY WOULD THEY? THEY'RE SO PRETTY!
PRETTY?

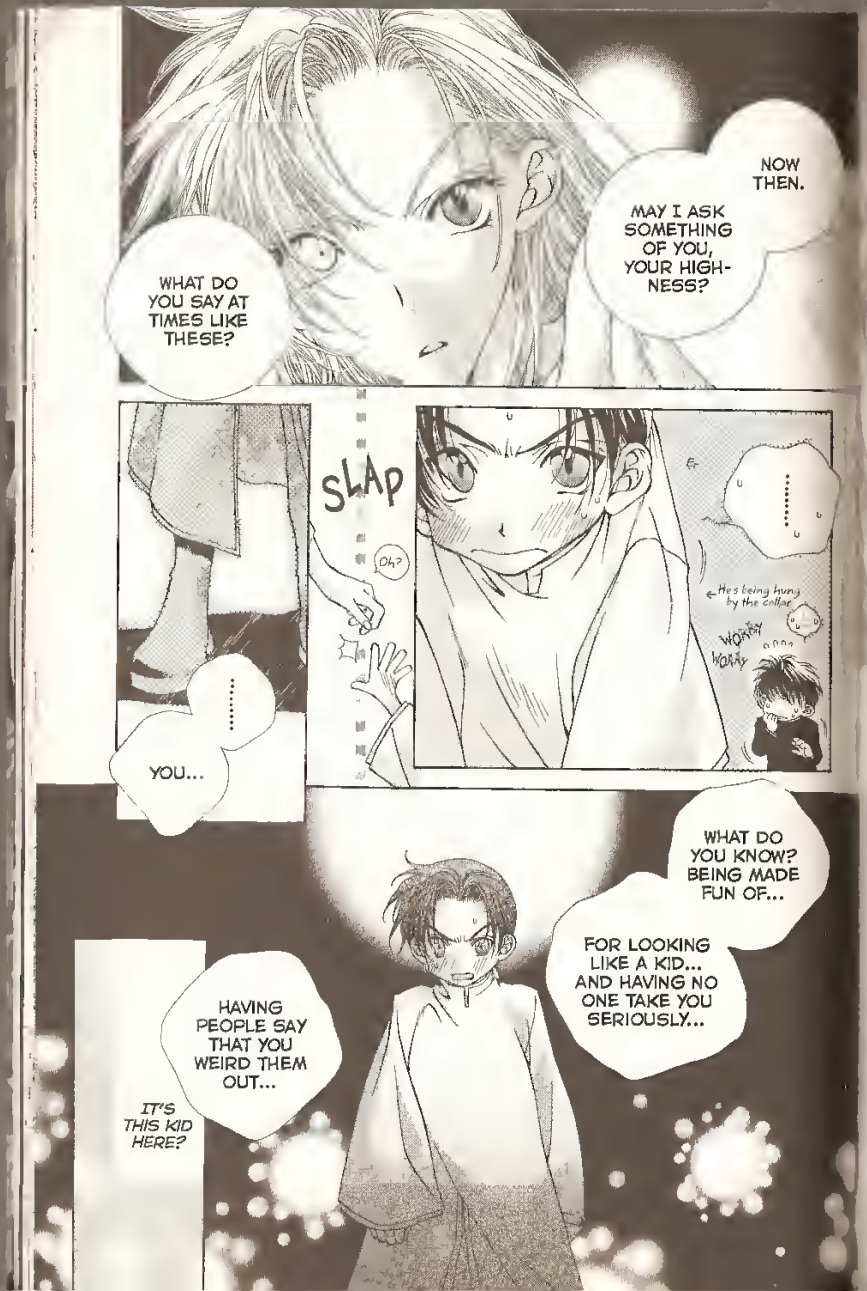

I'M HERE BECAUSE...
...I'VE GOTTEN APPROVAL TO STUDY POLITICS!
AND YOU'VE BEEN RECOM-MENDED AS MY TUTOR!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
WH-- WH--
HUH?
FLAP FLAP
OH, HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?
S--SOMETHING THE MATTER? WHY THE FACE?
SURELY YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ME ALREADY.
WHAT!?
N-- NO! NOT AT ALL!
WHY WOULD I BE UPSET?
WH--WHO TOLD YOU TO DO THAT!?
WHY, THE KING, OF COURSE.
Your face looks so big
YOU'RE NOT UPSET, ARE YOU?
WHY, THAT SNEAKY LITTLE...
WHAT THE...?
GOOOOD MORNING, LORD RARU!
THAT WAS JUST A DREAM ...
THUNK
AND FIRST OF ALL, WHY WAS SHE-
MORN-ING, RARU!
YOU'RE UP EARLY!
FUME FUME
Why'd he sneak up on me like that?
UGH, WHAT A WAY TO START THE DAY...
SWING
OH!
WHAT A STRANGE DREAM. I COULD HARDLY UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE WAS SAYING.

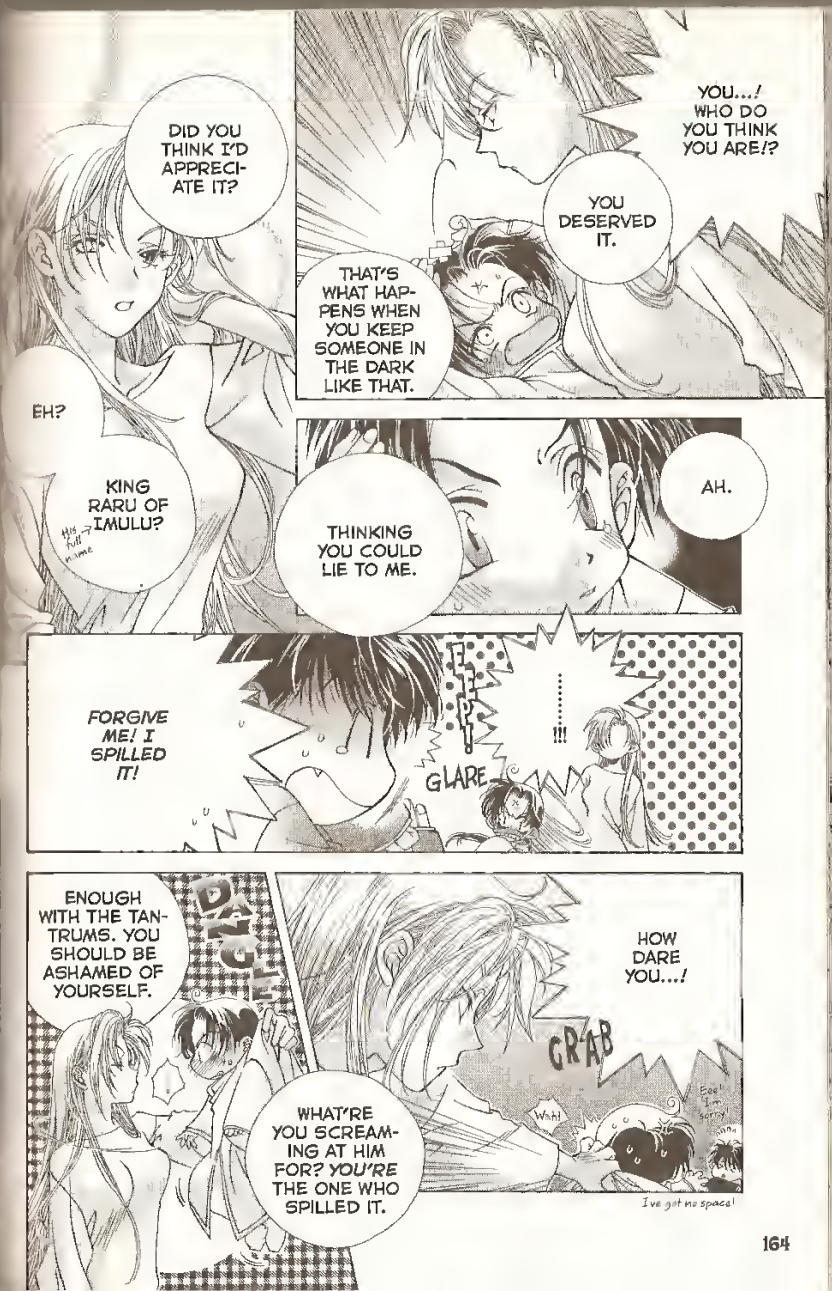

I'VE NEVER HAO SOMEONE...
...LIKE THIS TO TALK WITH.
SHE'S ALWAYS CHEERFUL...
...BUT NEVER RUDE, OR OVERLY AFFECTIONATE.
BUT... I OON'T FEEL ANY-THING LIKE THAT FROM HER.
SHE SEEMS TD BE TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY.
SHE ALWAYS MAKES ME FEEL GOOO.
PEEK
I see.
And then...
See?
THAT'S GOOO TO HEAR.
IT'LL BE SO MUCH FUN STUOYING WITH YOU.
SEE, I'M THE TYPE TO HOLD A GRUOGE.
HEH HEH HEH
ANO IF YOU REFUSE... WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN, RIGHT?
IS SHE SERIOUS?
IS SHE JUST TRYING TO GET CLOSE TO "KING ADELLE" THROUGH ME?
WHY WOULO SHE WANT A KID LIKE ME TO TEACH HER?

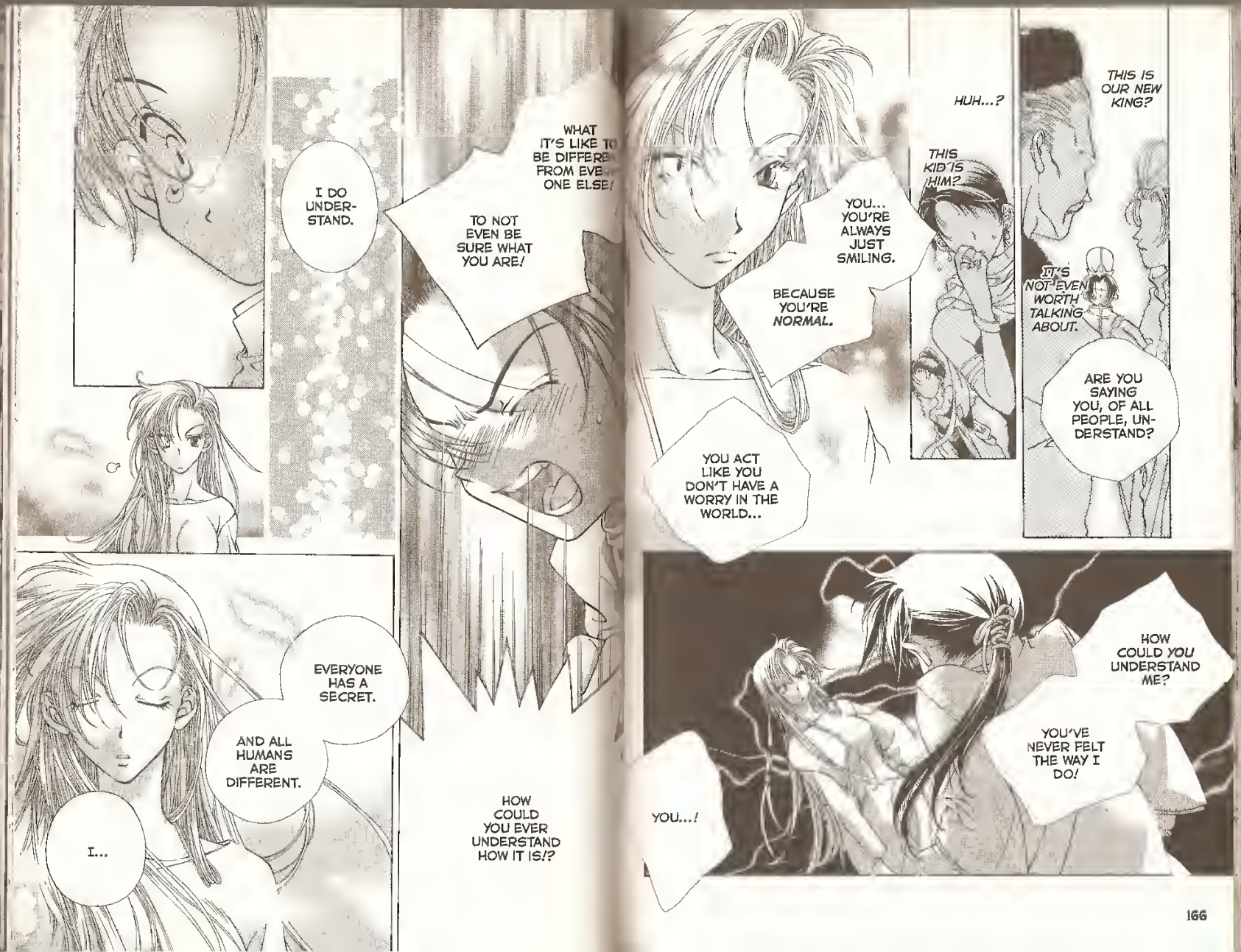
WHAT IS HE DOING!?
SNEAK
I can't hear!
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT!?
YES, HE REALLY IS A GOOD BOY.
DASH
HE'S CERTAINLY TAKING HIS TIME.
OH! YOUR HIGHNESS!
RARU'S IN THE OTHER ROOM. HE'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
CLATTER
Please don't stand up
THERE IS SOMETHING I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU ABOUT.
UH, LADY SESHUN?
WITH ME?
Y--YES. YOU SEE...
IT'S ABOUT... RARU.
OH, I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE.
Eh, heh
THAT IS...
MAY I ASK WHAT YOU THINK OF HIM?
?
WHAT DO I THINK?
I THINK HE'S A GOOD KID. SMART AND SENSIBLE.
EXCUSE ME?
UH... OKAY?

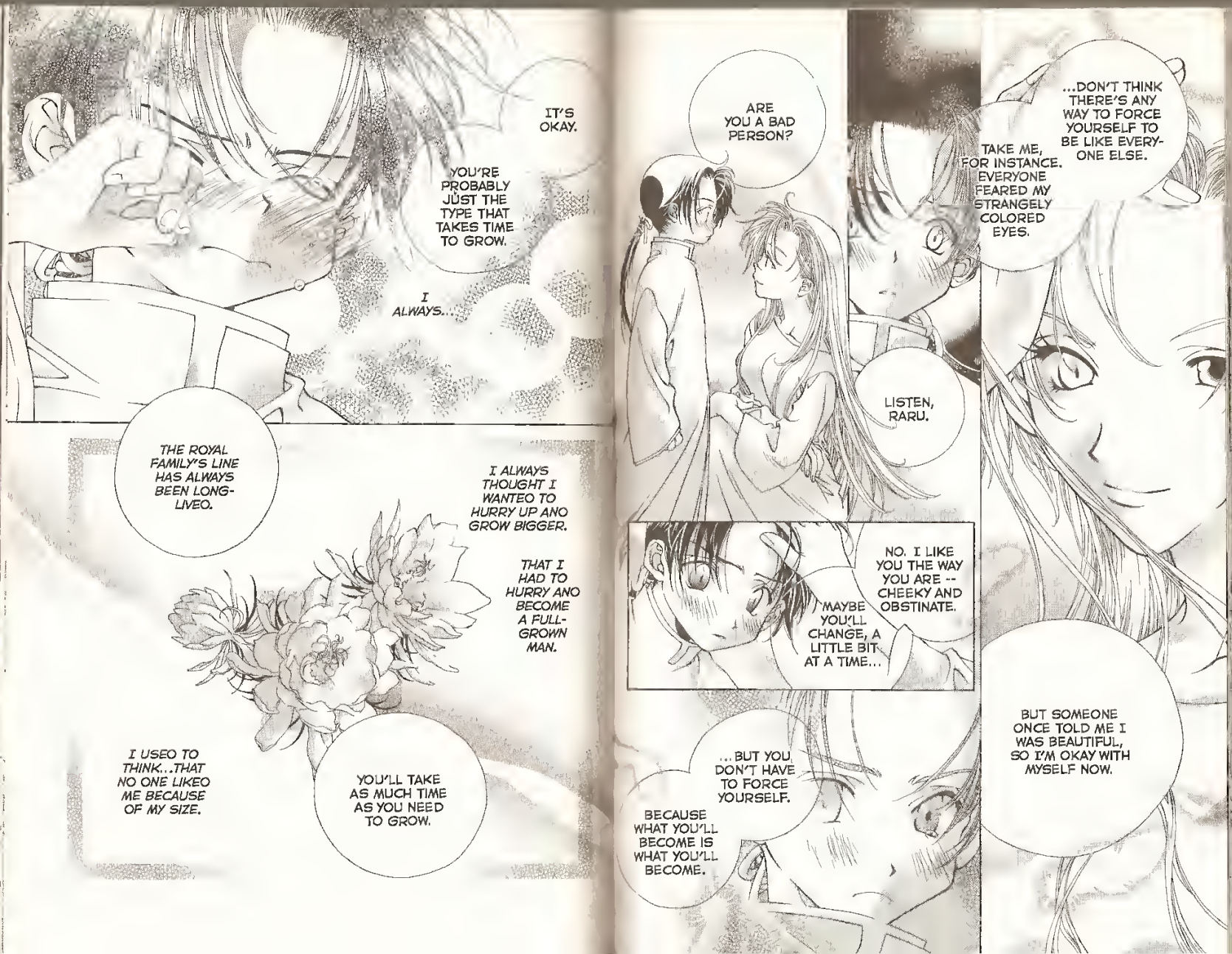
LORD RA–
THE REFLECTION ...
LORD RARU?
LORD RARU!
SO THERE YOU ARE!
EXCUSE ME?
I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE! WHAT IS THE MATTER?
THE PRINCESS IS WAITING FOR YOU.
I WAS LOOKING AT MYSELF...
...IN THE WATER'S REFLEC-TION.
I COULD NEVER GET ALONG WITH HER LIKE YOU DO.
MY HANDS ...AND FEET.
THEY'RE LIKE A CHILD'S.
NOT LIKE ME AT ALL.
EVEN WHEN I'M RIGHT BESIDE HER...
EXCUSE ME.
YES?
CLATTER
NO, NO. IT'S NO TROUBLE AT ALL.
IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T I–
I CAN'T ASK A PRINCESS LIKE YOU TO DO THAT.
All right
YOU'RE RIGHT. I WONDER WHAT COULD BE THE MATTER.
I'LL GO FIND HIM.
IF I'M WRONG ABOUT THIS, I BEG YOUR PARDON, BUT...
UM...
COULD IT BE THAT THE KING–


LORD RARU.
.....
ARE YOU UNHAPPY WITH LADY SESHUN?
AND...
...WHO COULD EVER TAKE A KID LIKE ME SERIOUSLY?
I JUST THINK... SHE'S PECULIAR.
...I DISLIKE HER OR ANYTHING.
NO, IT'S NOT THAT...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST PROPOSE TO HER NOW? THAT WAY, WHEN YOU GROW UP...
TRK
!
O-OH! YOU MEAN THAT!?
WHY, THAT'S NORMAL FOR A WOMAN LIKE HER!
Hm
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW HOW SHE FEELS IF YOU DON'T ASK HER!
THEN YOU CAN...
ENOUGH.
I...
LORD RARU...
I SAID ENOUGH!!
"WHEN I GROW UP"? HA! YOU MEAN WHEN I BECOME AN ADULT?
YOU KNOW I'M OLDER THAN YOU! BUT THE WAY I LOOK, NOBODY CAN TELL -
ALL RIGHT, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME HOW I CAN GROW UP? HUH!?
I'VE BEEN LIKE THIS MY WHOLE LIFE... WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WON'T STAY LIKE THIS FOR THE REST OF IT!?
IDIOT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
.....
WHAM
!!

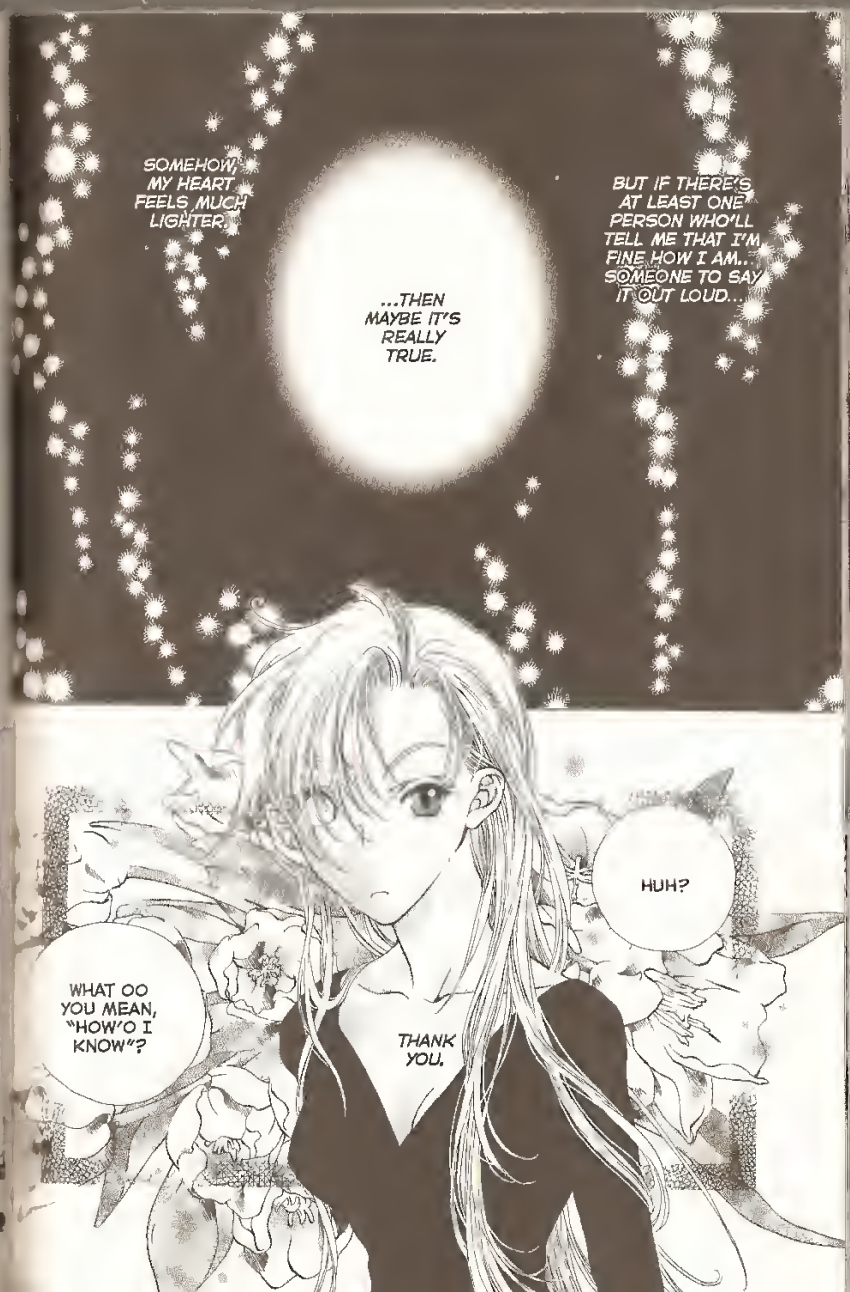

NOW THEN.
MAY I ASK SOMETHING OF YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS?
WHAT DO YOU SAY AT TIMES LIKE THESE?
SLAP
Oh?
He's being hung by the collar.
WORRY WORRY
YOU...
WHAT DO YOU KNOW? BEING MADE FUN OF...
FOR LOOKING LIKE A KID... AND HAVING NO ONE TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY...
HAVING PEOPLE SAY THAT YOU WEIRD THEM OUT...
IT'S THIS KID HERE?

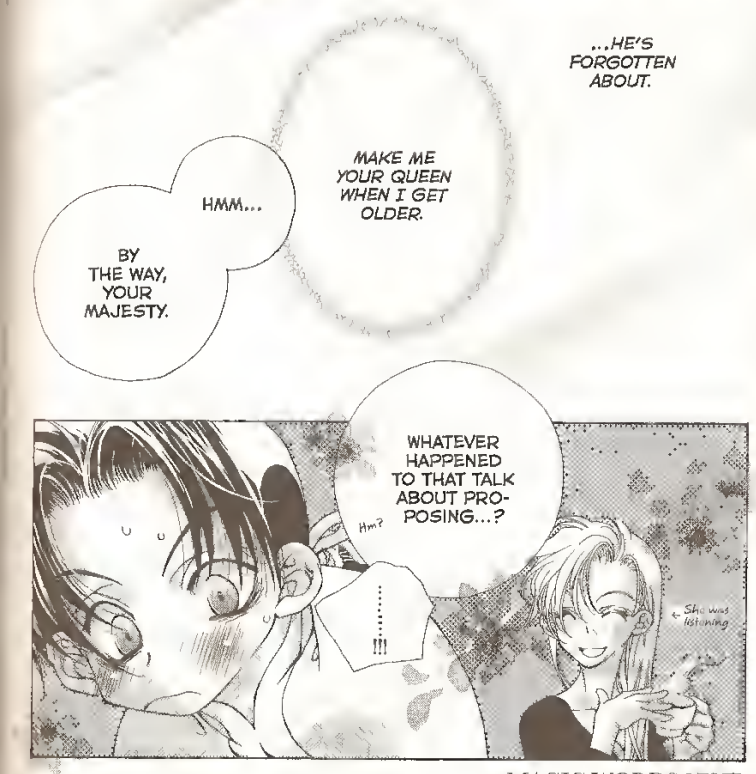

DID YOU THINK I'D APPRECIATE IT?
YOU...! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?
YOU DESERVED IT.
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU KEEP SOMEONE IN THE DARK LIKE THAT.
EH?
KING RARU OF IMULU?
His full name
AH.
THINKING YOU COULD LIE TO ME.
FORGIVE ME! I SPILLED IT!
!!!
GLARE
ENOUGH WITH THE TANTRUMS. YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF.
DNGH
HOW DARE YOU...!
CRAB
Wah!
Eee! I'm sorry!
WHAT'RE YOU SCREAMING AT HIM FOR? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SPILLED IT.
I've got no space!


I DO UNDER-STAND.
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE DIFFERE FROM EVE ONE ELSE!
TO NOT EVEN BE SURE WHAT YOU ARE!
HOW COULD YOU EVER UNDERSTAND HOW IT IS!?
I...
AND ALL HUMANS ARE DIFFERENT.
EVERYONE HAS A SECRET.
YOU ACT LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE A WORRY IN THE WORLD...
BECAUSE YOU'RE NORMAL.
YOU... YOU'RE ALWAYS JUST SMILING.
HUH...?
THIS KID IS HIM?
THIS IS OUR NEW KING?
IT'S NOT EVEN WORTH TALKING ABOUT.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, UN-DERSTAND?
YOU...!
YOU'VE NEVER FELT THE WAY I DO!
HOW COULD YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

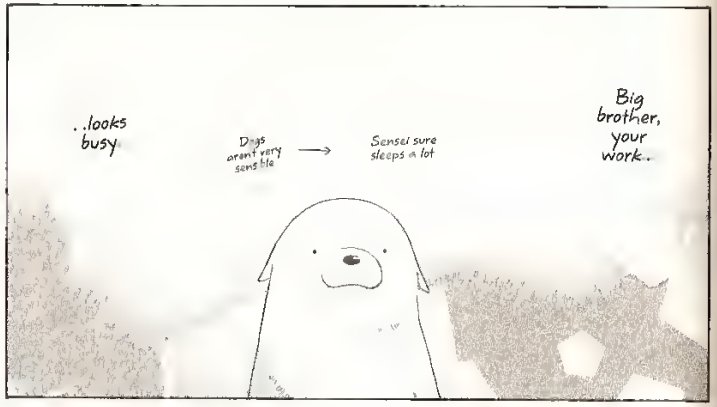

IT'S OKAY.
YOU'RE PROBABLY JUST THE TYPE THAT TAKES TIME TO GROW.
I ALWAYS...
THE ROYAL FAMILY'S LINE HAS ALWAYS BEEN LONG-LIVED.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT I WANTED TO HURRY UP AND GROW BIGGER.
THAT I HAD TO HURRY AND BECOME A FULL-GROWN MAN.
I USED TO THINK...THAT NO ONE LIKED ME BECAUSE OF MY SIZE.
YOU'LL TAKE AS MUCH TIME AS YOU NEED TO GROW.
ARE YOU A BAD PERSON?
LISTEN, RARU.
TAKE ME, FOR INSTANCE. EVERYONE FEARED MY STRANGELY COLORED EYES.
...DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY WAY TO FORCE YOURSELF TO BE LIKE EVERY-ONE ELSE.
NO. I LIKE YOU THE WAY YOU ARE -- CHEEKY AND OBSTINATE.
MAYBE YOU'LL CHANGE, A LITTLE BIT AT A TIME...
BUT SOMEONE ONCE TOLD ME I WAS BEAUTIFUL, SO I'M OKAY WITH MYSELF NOW.
...BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF.
BECAUSE WHAT YOU'LL BECOME IS WHAT YOU'LL BECOME.

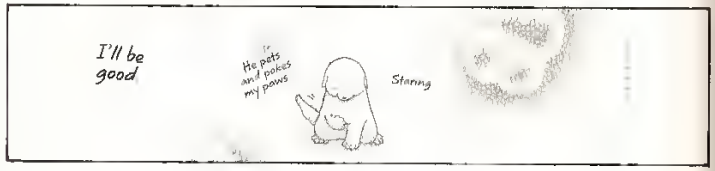
TH--
THAT'S
NOT IT...
YOU
WOULDN'T
HAPPEN TO
BE THINKING
THAT I KNEW
ALL ALONG,
NOW WOULD
YOU?
Huh?
WHY NOW,
OF ALL
TIMES?
WELL...
HOW OO
YOU THINK
I KNEW?
...FOR SOME
REASON, I'VE
JUST BEEN
WONDERING...
Here
you
are
IT'S
HOPE-
LESS...
This
was all
your idea
anyway
Rainy
sama!
Quiet!
IT
SEEMS
HE'S COM-
PLETELY
FORGOTTEN.
NO MATTER
HOW YOU
CAST HIM, HE
HAS A QUIET,
UNASSUMING
PERSONALITY.
Wh-
who,
me?
Huh?
YOUR
SERVANT,
ADELLE, IS
NOT AT ALL
KINGLY
MATE-
RIAL.
GLARE
YOU MADE
A MISTAKE
IN CHOOS-
ING YOUR
REPLACE-
MENT, YOUR
HIGHNESS.
I
THINK WE
SHOULD
JUST STOP
THIS RUSE
ENTIRELY...
NEXT TIME,
PREPARE
ADELLE'S
COSTUME
A LITTLE
BET-
TER.
Oops
AND WHAT'S
MORE, YOU
WERE ALWAYS
WEARING THE
ROYAL COLOR
OF WHITE.
Rawr!
Again
with the
milk?
HEY,
THAT'S
NOT FAIR!
I-
SHUT UP!
THIS IS ALL
THANKS
TO YOUR
POOR
ACT-
ING!


SOMEHOW,
MY HEART
FEELS MUCH
LIGHTER.
...THEN
MAYBE IT'S
REALLY
TRUE.
BUT IF THERE'S
AT LEAST ONE
PERSON WHO'LL
TELL ME THAT I'M
FINE HOW I AM...
SOMEONE TO SAY
IT OUT LOUD...
HUH?
WHAT OO
YOU MEAN,
"HOW'O I
KNOW"?
THANK
YOU.



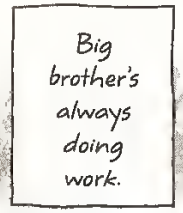
MAGIC WORDS ✝ END

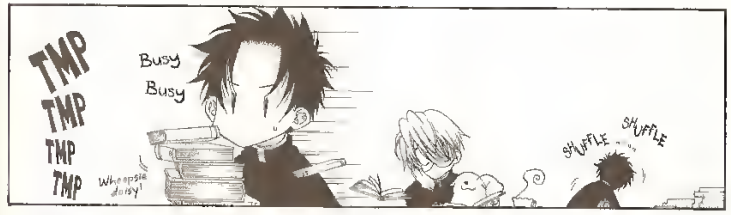


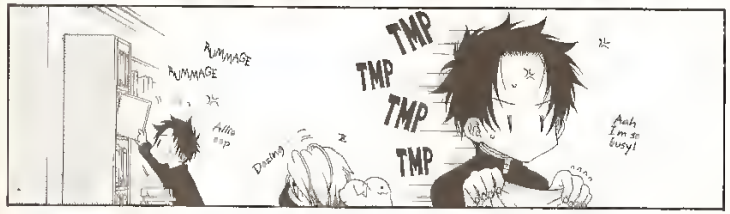


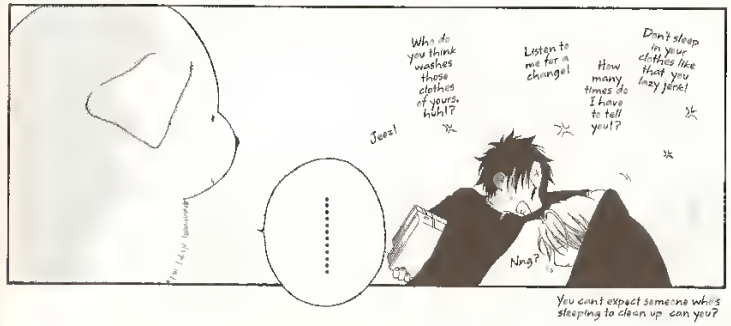
It might be a while, though
Ack! You little!
Nooo...I'm sleepy
TOPPLE
I wonder if he'll play with me when he's done working
But I really wanna play..

Bonus Manga

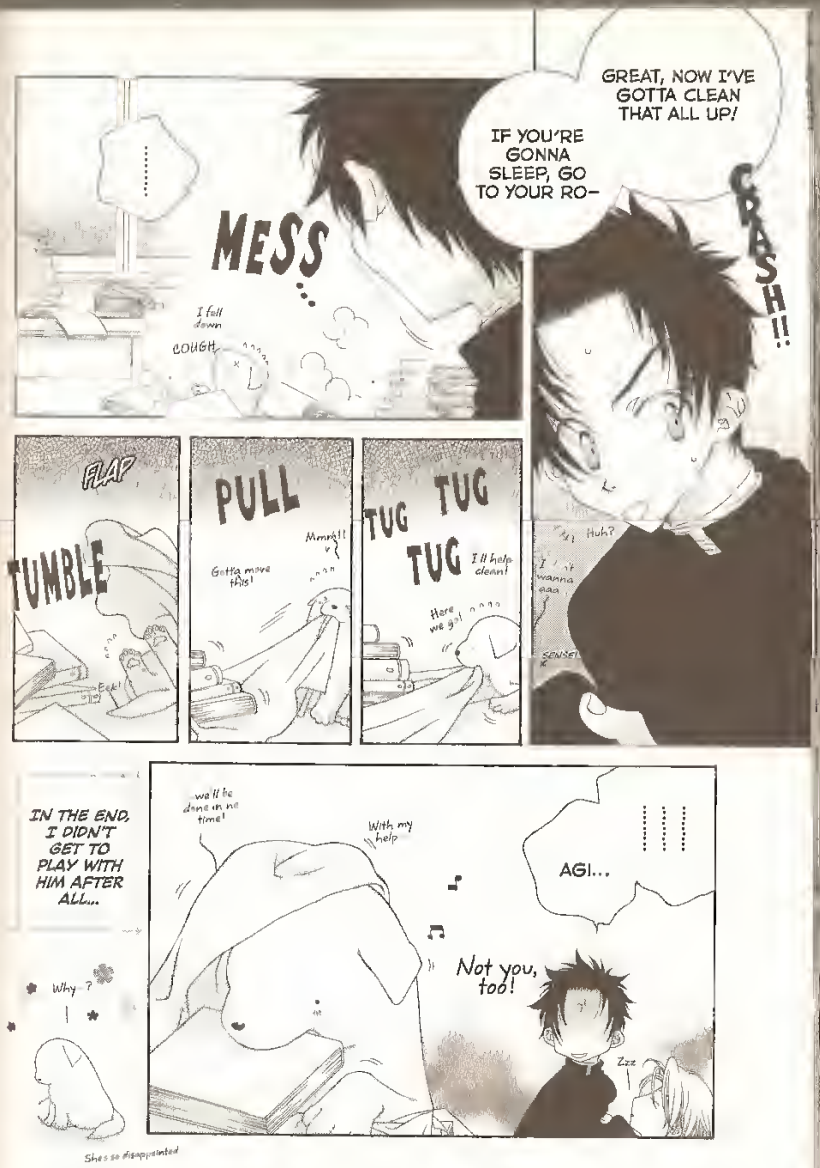







Why do you think washes those clothes of yours, huh!?
Listen to me for a change!
How many times do I have to tell you!?
Don't sleep in your clothes like that you lazy jerk!
Jeez!
Nng?

You can't expect someone who's sleeping to clean up, can you?



Afterword

THANK YOU TO ALL MY EDITORS AND YOU READERS OUT THERE.

I AM HAPPY THAT MY WORK HAS NOW BECOME A COMPLETE VOLUME.

ESPECIALLY TO MY MANAGER, WHO REALLY SAVED ME WITH THIS ONE.

I WANT TO SHAPE UP AND MATURE. MENTALLY, THAT IS...

I'D CALL THIS WORK THE RESULT OF CONSTANTLY CAUSING TROUBLE FOR OTHERS WHILE CONTINUING TO DRAW.

I'M QUITE PLEASED WITH HOW THIS TURNED OUT. I'M SOARING THROUGH THE AIR...AND PANICKING A LITTLE, TOO. ABOUT THE DEADLINES, I MEAN...

WHILE PHYSICALLY, I WANT IT ALL TO JUST STOP.

THANKS ♡ MY HELPER AKIZUKI-SAN.

SINCE THERE'S A LITTLE MORE TO HAPPEN IN THIS STORY, I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D STICK AROUND FOR IT.

WELL, UNTIL THEN.

In Volume 2 of

BLACK SUN SILVER MOON

Can a silver-eyed stranger shatter the fragile bond between Shikimi and the only one who can save him?

Kokkuri-san & the Ouija Board

"Kokkuri-san" is a traditional way to communicate with the dead -- via the helpful and ambiguous spirit, Kokkuri-san -- sort of like our Western Ouija Board.

The Look...

The board looks a lot like a Ouija Board with YES, NO, the alphabet and numbers painted on it for the spirit to "talk" to us with. Instead of a footed planchette, a 10-yen coin is placed on the board for the spirit to use as a pointer, sliding it around the board to spell out his message. The main difference between the Kokkuri-san board and the Ouija Board is that there's a torii – a Shinto shrine archway -- at the top center where play begins and where the coin comes to rest once Kokkuri has finished answering the question.

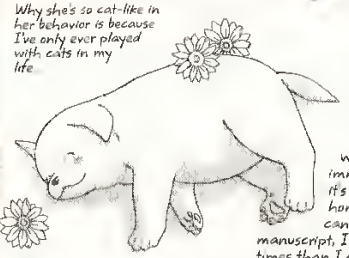
How to Play...

To draw out the spirit, one chants the name "Kokkuri-san, Kokkuri-san" as all participants rest their fingers on the coin. The initial question is always to confirm whether or not he is indeed present and once that is answered by the creepy movement of the coin toward the "YES," the session continues.

The rules are very strict and if any are broken — such as quitting halfway or lifting one's finger from the coin —the players must dissolve the resulting curse by drawing a star five times on their forehead with a finger dipped in water. Also, the coin used in the game must be spent within three days following the session.

A Bit of History...

It was in the mid-1800's in the United States that Ouija Boards, or "Talking Boards" became a craze. The initial contraptions included a rocking table and more complex planchettes that involved actual pencils to do the spiritual writing! The advent of Japan's Kokkuri-san developed just a couple of decades later and still lives on as a staple of Japanese childhood.



Why she's so cat-like in her behavior is because I've only ever played with cats in my life.

AGI

She's 10... or at least she's supposed to be. She always looks so soft.

PERSON WITH A KIND HAND

This story was decided by a meeting arranged while I was in the middle of a bath... Looks like the cat's out of the bag. Why'd you have to tell them that on the phone, Mom? It's a story I've always wanted to convey. Which was then granted immediately. I've always fantasized that though it's a scary thought, the dead coming back home to those they love, there's also saving that can happen thanks to them. For my first color manuscript, I was so nervous that I had to redraw it more times than I can count. Thanks to it the dog became a quick favorite. And when I do a poor job, even more than the human characters. Though I'm still inexperienced, I'm satisfied that I'm able to draw. Though looking back, there are little points here and there that I'm dissatisfied with.

PERSON WHO SMILES

For the first time in a while, we see Taki's smile. Because he's usually just pissed off, it's a good change once in a while. So just which one is the "Person" in the title? It was sort of trying always having to draw middle-aged men in this chapter though... Not like I can blame anyone though since I made the chapter to include them so much. I really am not one to enjoy patterns like this.

MAGIC WORDS

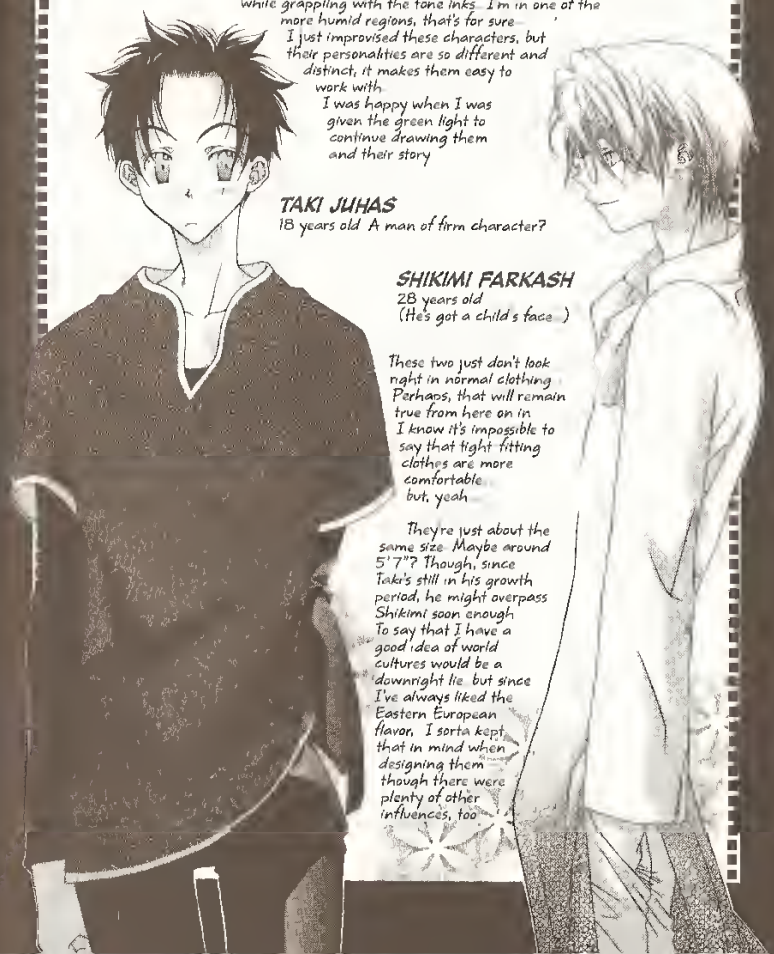
This is something I drew around the time of my debut. And as an amateur, it became my last work... or so it was supposed to. I myself must harbor a number of complexes I bet. Since I'm that kind of person, it seems like this story was just a self-justification or something.

I really liked the name "Seshun." I learned that in some language it means "mugwort flower." So I can't help thinking that has a very lovely nuance to it.

BONUS TALK

BLACK SUN SILVER MOON

Perhaps this is my shortest recording of draft sketchings (up until now).
We're at the height of rainy season right now. In this little room with no air conditioning, I remember drawing while grappling with the tone inks. I'm in one of the more humid regions, that's for sure.
I just improvised these characters, but their personalities are so different and distinct, it makes them easy to work with.
I was happy when I was given the green light to continue drawing them and their story.



TAKI JUHAS

18 years old. A man of firm character?

SHIKIMI FARKASH

28 years old
(He's got a child's face.)

These two just don't look right in normal clothing. Perhaps, that will remain true from here on in. I know it's impossible to say that tight fitting clothes are more comfortable but, yeah.

They're just about the same size. Maybe around 5'7"? Though, since Taki's still in his growth period, he might overpass Shikimi soon enough.
To say that I have a good idea of world cultures would be a downright lie, but since I've always liked the Eastern European flavor, I sorta kept that in mind when designing them though there were plenty of other influences, too.

LOOKS

AGE: 18
SEX: MALE
EYE COLOR: BLACK
HAIR COLOR: BLACK
HEIGHT: 5'7"

PERSONALITY

STUBBON, HARD-WORKING, FEARLESS. ALWAYS SAYS WHAT HE'S THINKING. DISLIKES DOGS, ZOMBIES, AND GIVING UP.

HISTORY

OLDEST CHILD OF A LARGE FAMILY, FATHER DECEASED. WORKING AT THE CHURCH TO PAY OFF HIS FATHER'S DEBT.

TAKI JUHAS

LOOKS

AGE: 28
SEX: MALE
EYE COLOR: SILVER
HAIR COLOR: SILVER
HEIGHT: 5'7"

PERSONALITY

KNOWN AS "SOCIOPATH" OR "EMOTIONALLY CHALLENGED". FATALIST, ALWAYS SMILING. ENJOYS READING, DRINKING TEA, MAKING MESSES AND KILLING ZOMBIES.

HISTORY

UNKNOWN...

SHIKIMI FARKASH

LOOKS

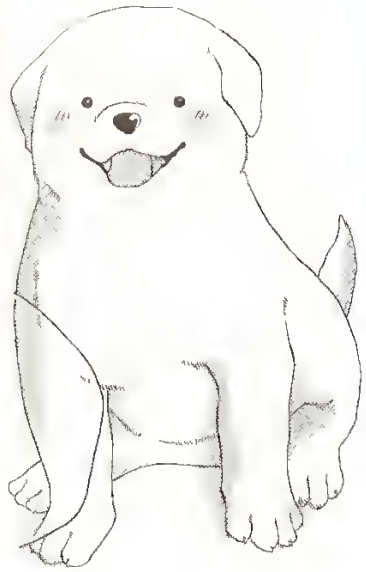
AGE: UNDEAD
SEX: FEMALE
EYE COLOR: SILVER
FUR COLOR: SILVER
HEIGHT: TINY

PERSONALITY

CAREFREE, DETERMINED
LOYAL, STUBBORN, PLAYFUL.
LOVES TAKI, ATTENTION,
BEING PLAYED WITH, AND
FRESH BLOOD.

HISTORY

WAS ABANDONED AS A
PUPPY OVER TEN YEARS AGO,
UNOFFICALLY ADOPTED BY
TAKI. REBORN OUT OF LOVE
FOR HER KIND MASTER.



AGI

BLACK SUN SILVER MOON

Taki thought he was getting just what he needed; a nice, quiet job to pay off his late father's debts. Instead, he got priest Shikimi, who orders him to cleanse the church of all impurities -- including the zombies! Suddenly forced into the role of maid by day and demon-hunter by night, Taki's about to find out what other secrets Shikimi has been hiding behind his silver eyes and calm, calculating smile...

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